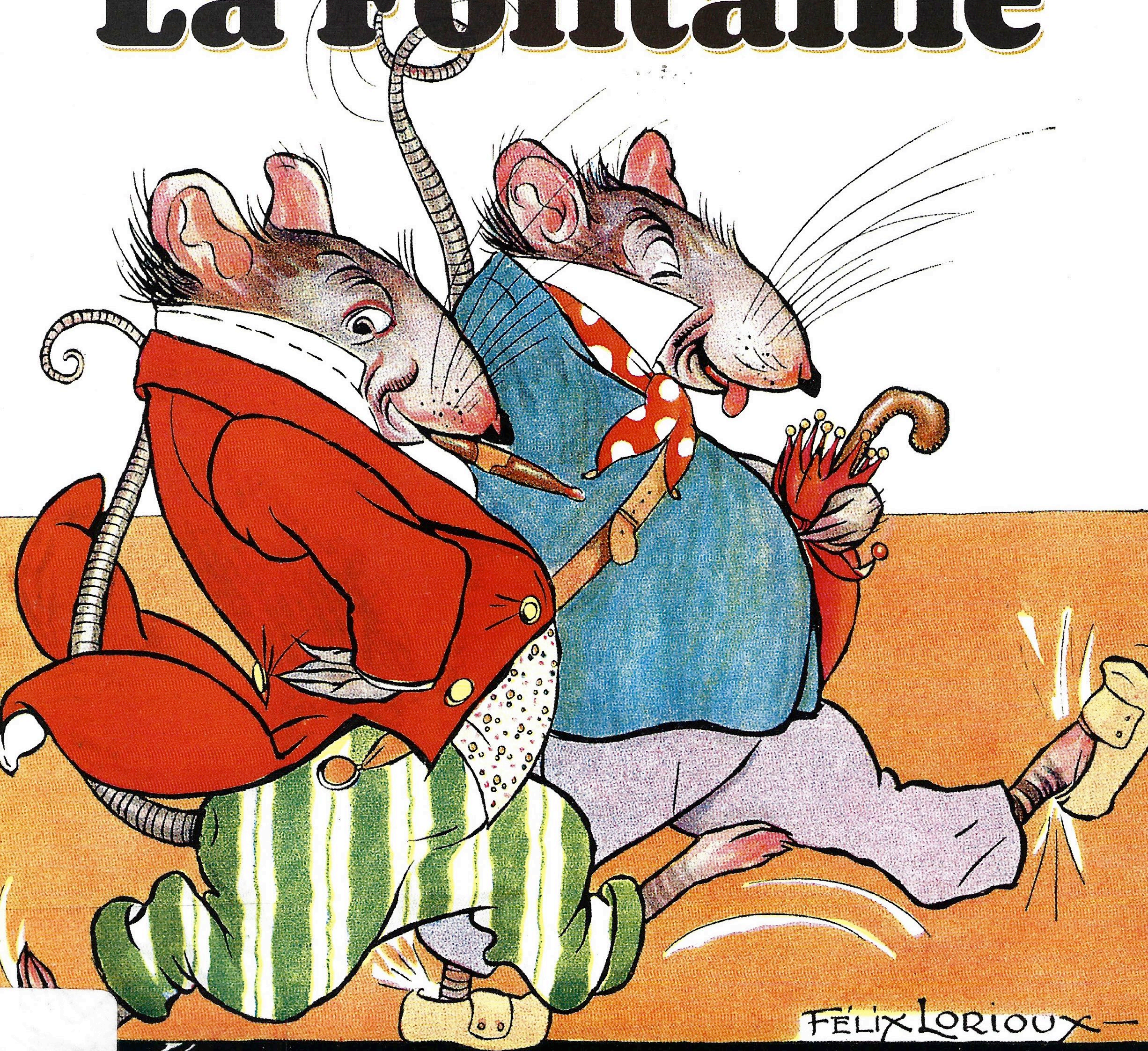


FABLES *of* La Fontaine



FÉLIX LORIENT —

JEAN DE LA FONTAINE

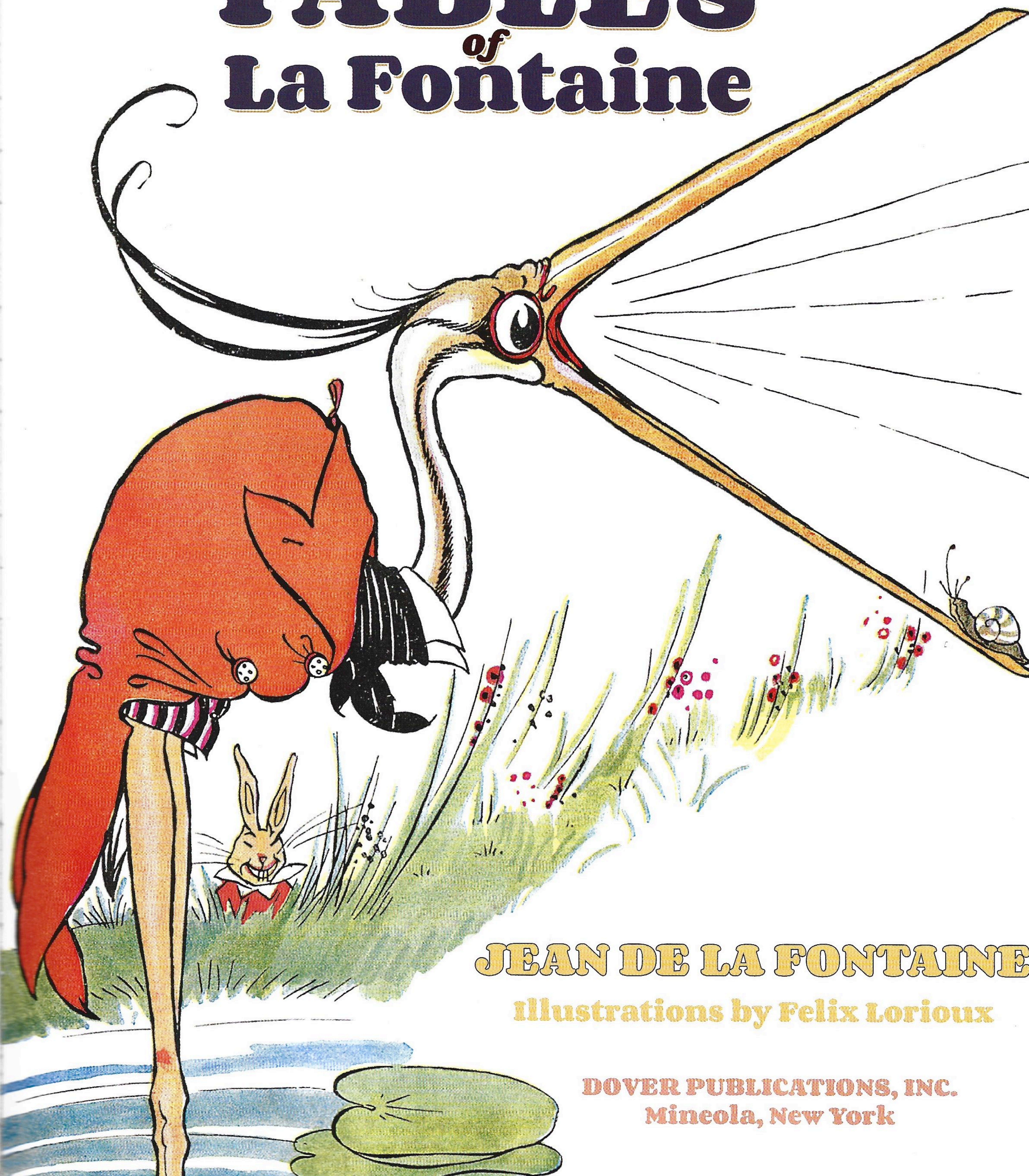
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FABLES *of* La Fontaine



JEAN DE LA FONTAINE

Illustrations by Felix Lorient

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FABLES *of* **La Fontaine**



The Cicada and the Ant



The cicada, having sung all summer long,

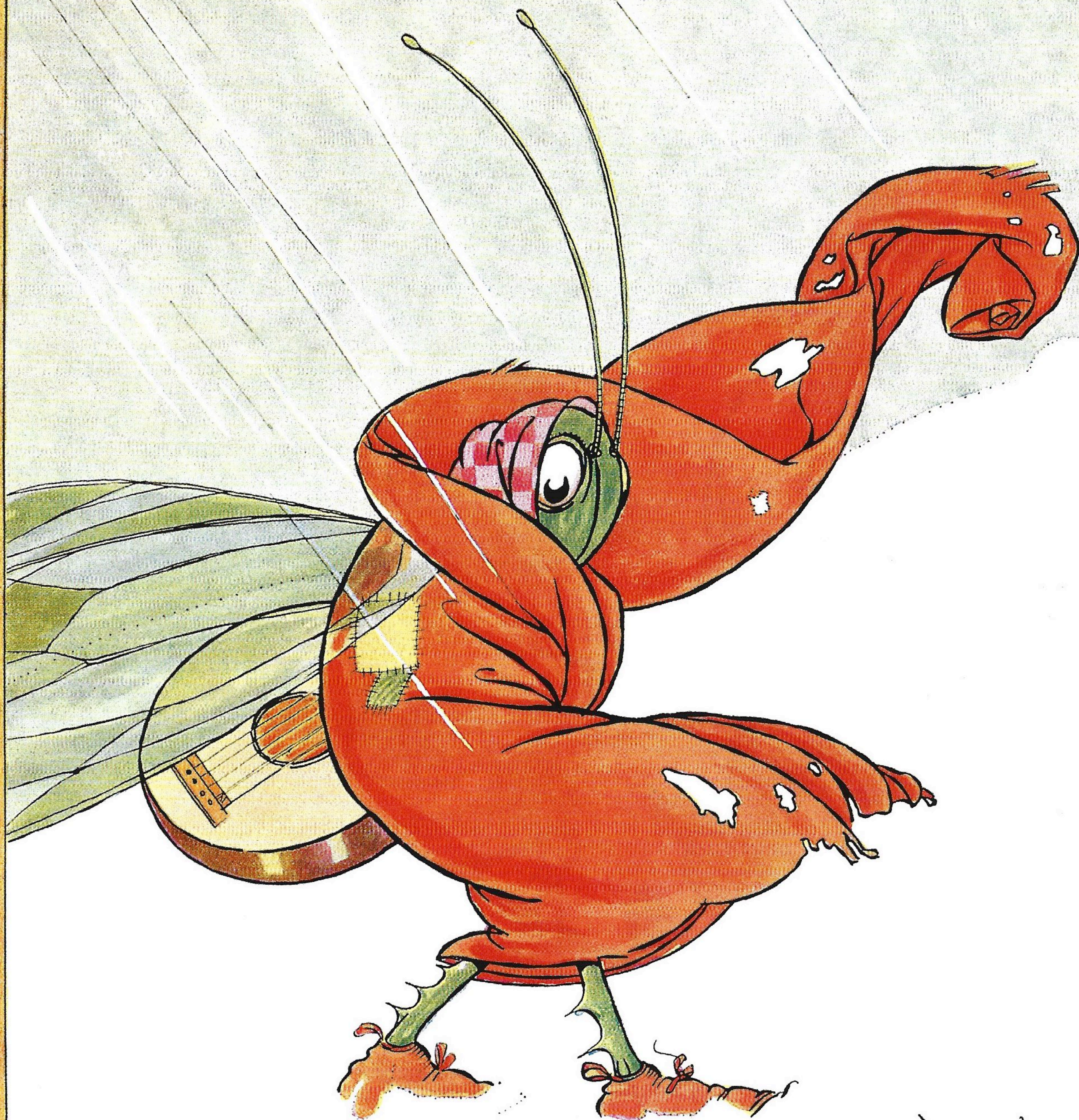


Found herself without food when the north wind blew.



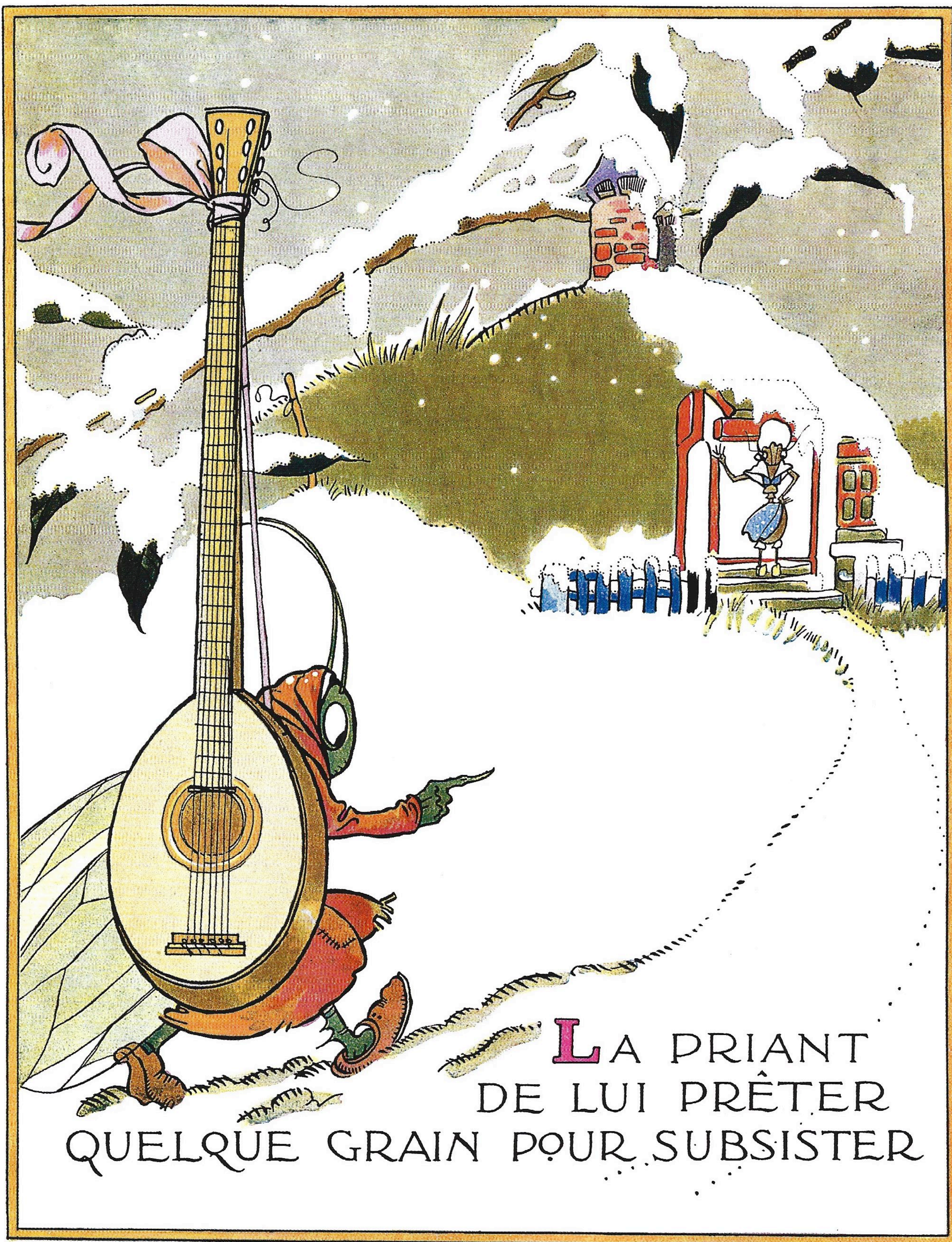
She had not a bit of a worm or fly.

ELLE ALLA CRIER FAMINE
CHEZ LA FOURMI SA VOISINE,

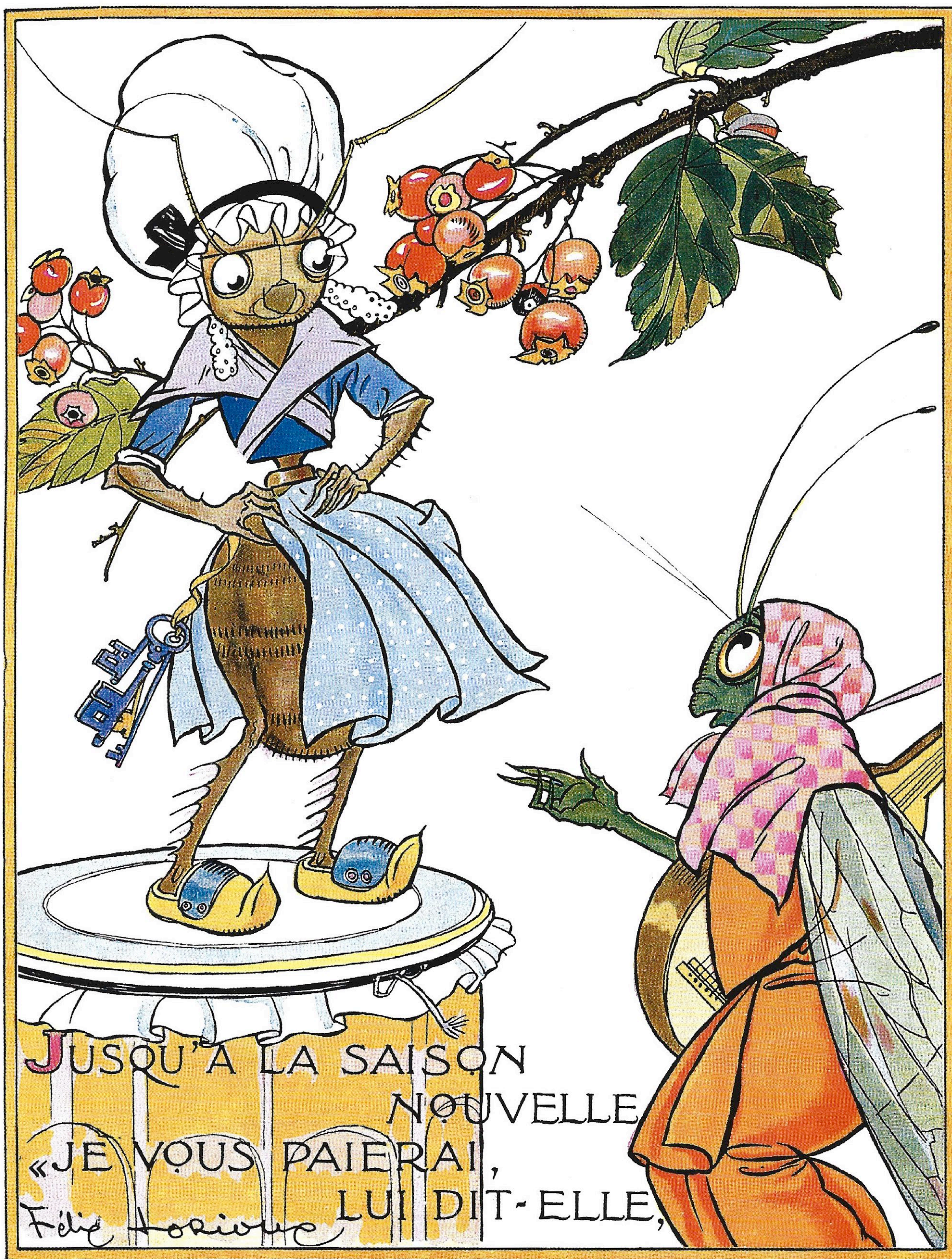


Fe. Fe.

Crying hunger, she visited her neighbor, the ant.



She begged for some wheat so she could survive.



JUSQU'À LA SAISON
NOUVELLE
«JE VOUS PAIERAI,
LUI DIT-ELLE,
Félic Horvath

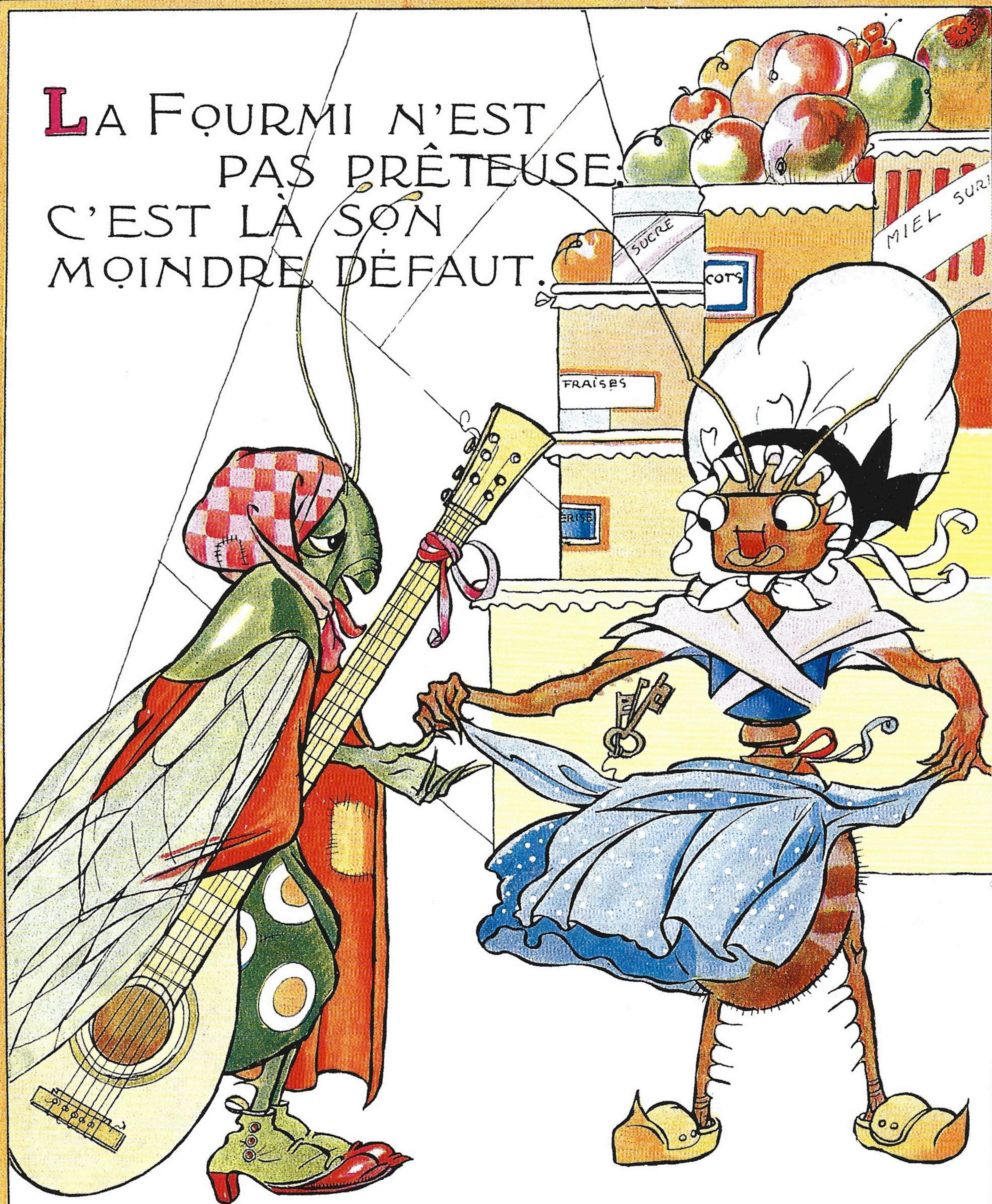
"Just until the seasons change, and then I will repay you," said she.

AVANT L'OÛT, FOI D'ANIMAL,
INTÉRÊT ET PRINCIPAL.»



“Before the harvest, by faith, I’ll pay you principal and interest.”

LA FOURMI N'EST
PAS PRÊTEUSE.
C'EST LÀ SON
MOINDRE DÉFAUT.



The ant is no lender; it's her least defective part.



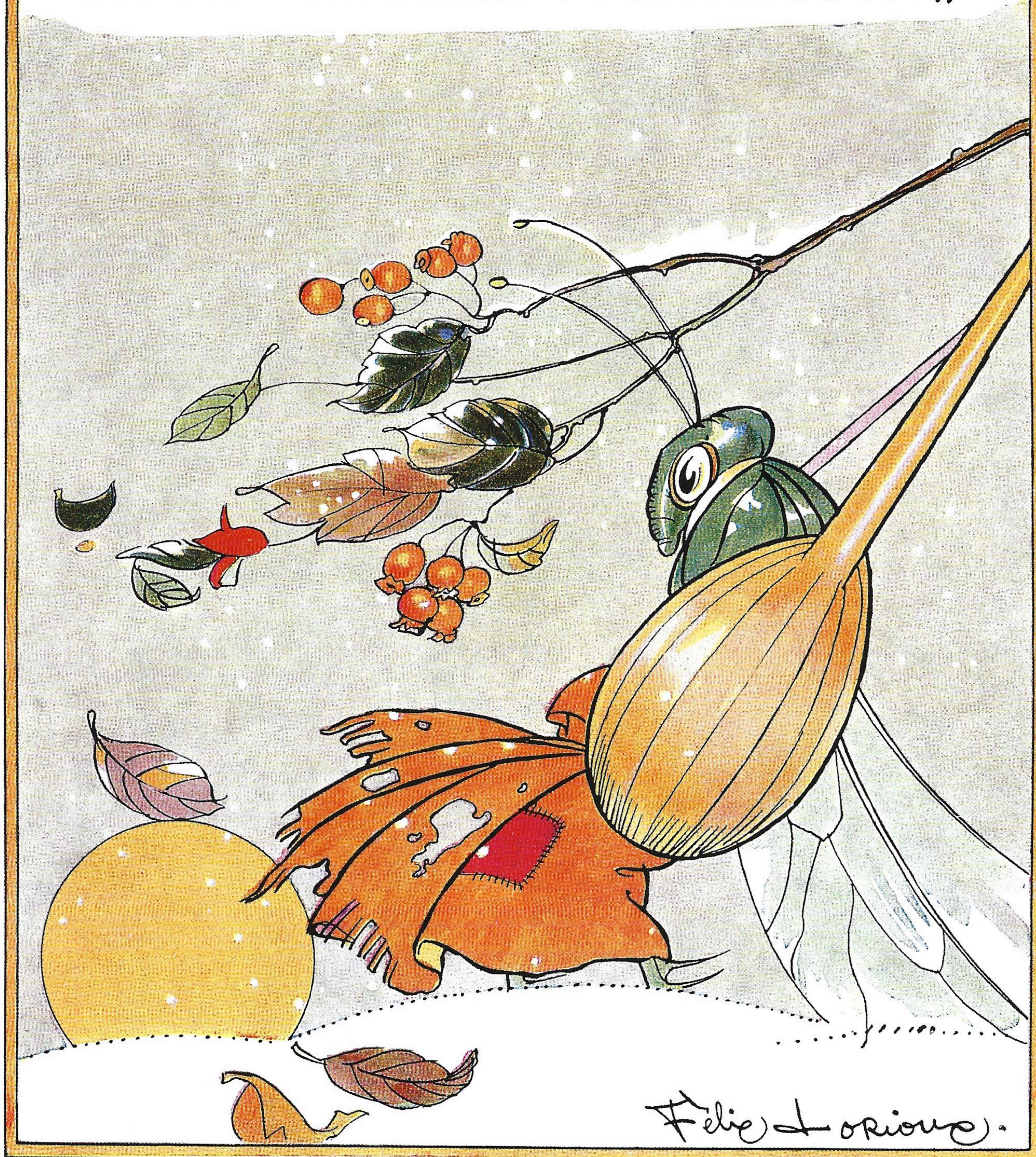
“What were you doing when the weather was good?” said she to the borrower.



NUIT ET JOUR À TOUT VENANT
JE CHANTAIS, NE VOUS DEPLAISE.

Night and day I sang (not to offend you).

VOUS CHANTIEZ ? J'EN SUIS FORT AISE :
EH BIEN ! DANSEZ MAINTENANT. »

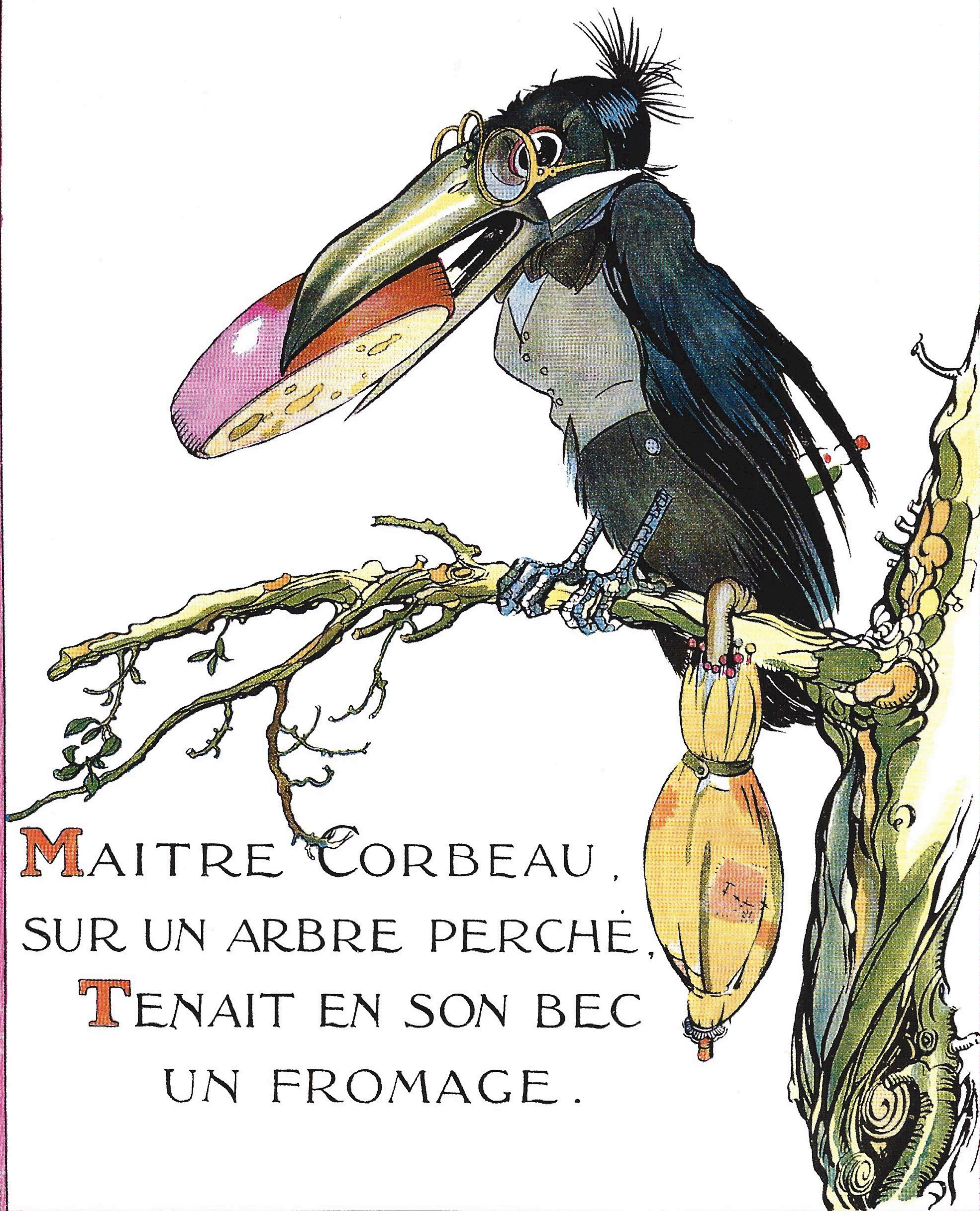


You were singing? I'm overjoyed to hear that; oh well, you
might as well dance now!

LE CORBEAU ET LE RENARD



The Crow and the Fox



MAITRE CORBEAU,
SUR UN ARBRE PERCHÉ,
TENAIT EN SON BEC
UN FROMAGE.

Master Crow sat perched in a tree, holding a cheese in his beak.



MAÎTRE RENARD,
PAR L'ODEUR ALLÉCHÉ,
LUI TINT À PEU PRÈS
CE LANGAGE :

Master Fox, drawn by the aroma, spoke thus to him:



« **HÉ !** BONJOUR,
MONSIEUR DU CORBEAU,

“Hello, Good day!” Sir Crow,



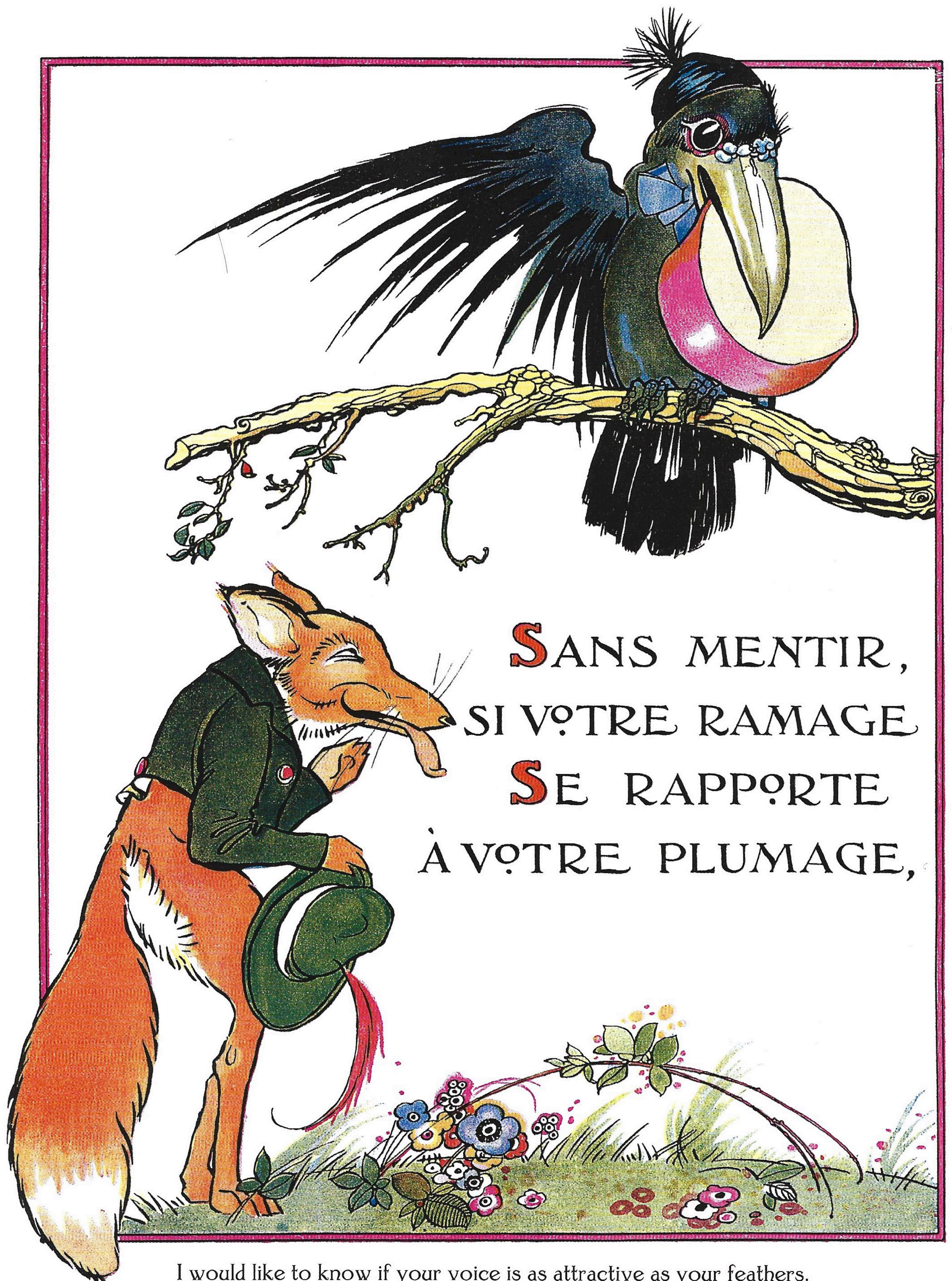
QUE VOUS
ÊTES JOLI!

How fine you are!



QUE VOUS ME
SEMBLEZ BEAU !

You appear so handsome!



I would like to know if your voice is as attractive as your feathers.



VOUS ÊTES
LE PHÉNIX
DES HÔTES
DE CES BOIS »

You are the phoenix of the woods.”



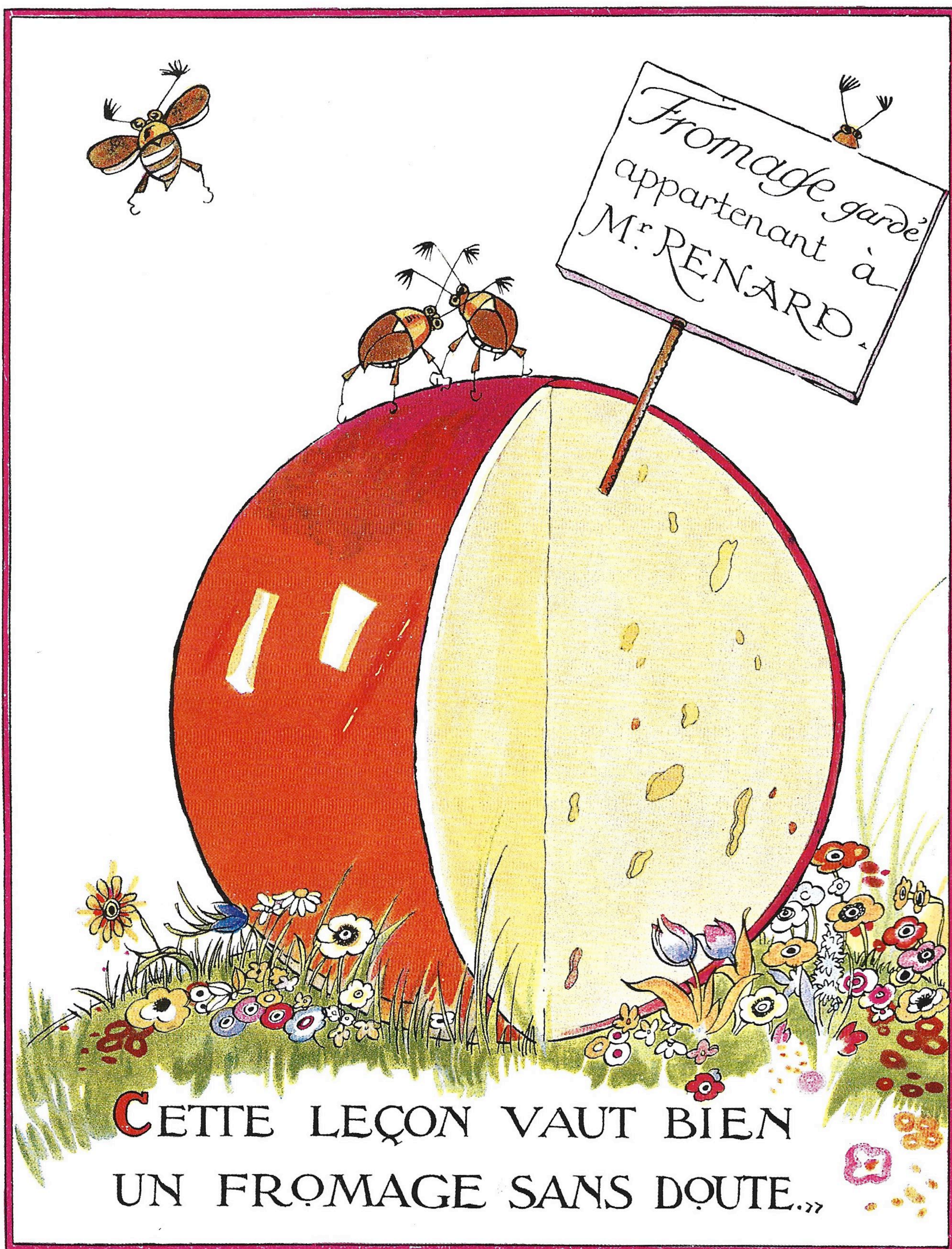
ACES MOTS LE CORBEAU
NE SE SENT PAS DE JOIE;
ET POUR MONTRER SA BELLE VOIX,
IL OUVRE UN LARGE BEC,
LAISSE TOMBER SA PROIE.

At these words, the crow felt only happiness, and to demonstrate his fine voice, he opened his beak—letting fall his prize.

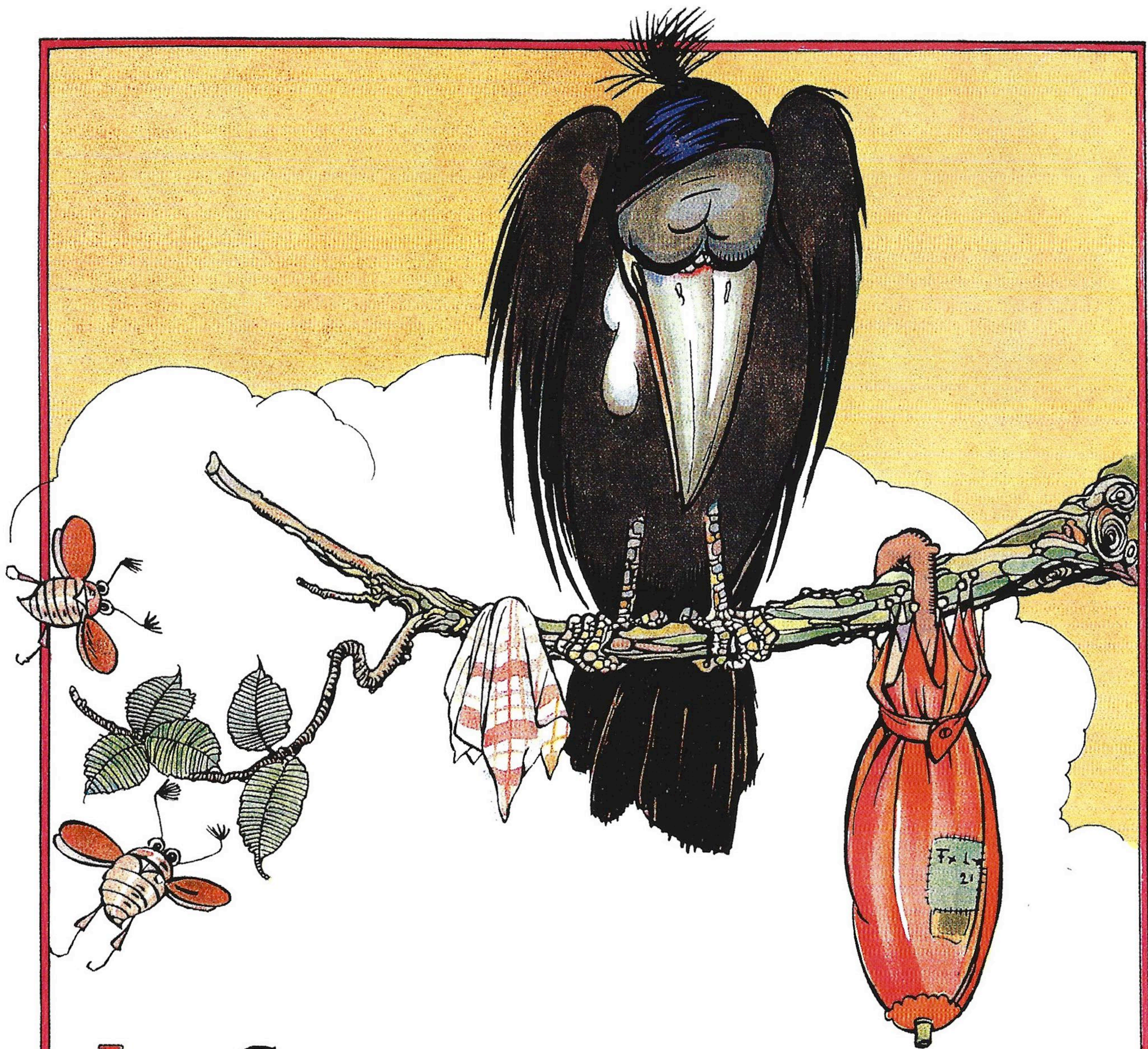


LE RENARD S'EN SAISIT,
ET DIT : « MON BON
MONSIEUR, **A**PPRENEZ
QUE TOUT FLATTEUR
VIT AUX DÉPENS
DE CELUI QUI
L'ÉCOUTE :

The fox seized it, saying: "My good sir, you must learn that
flattery comes at a cost:



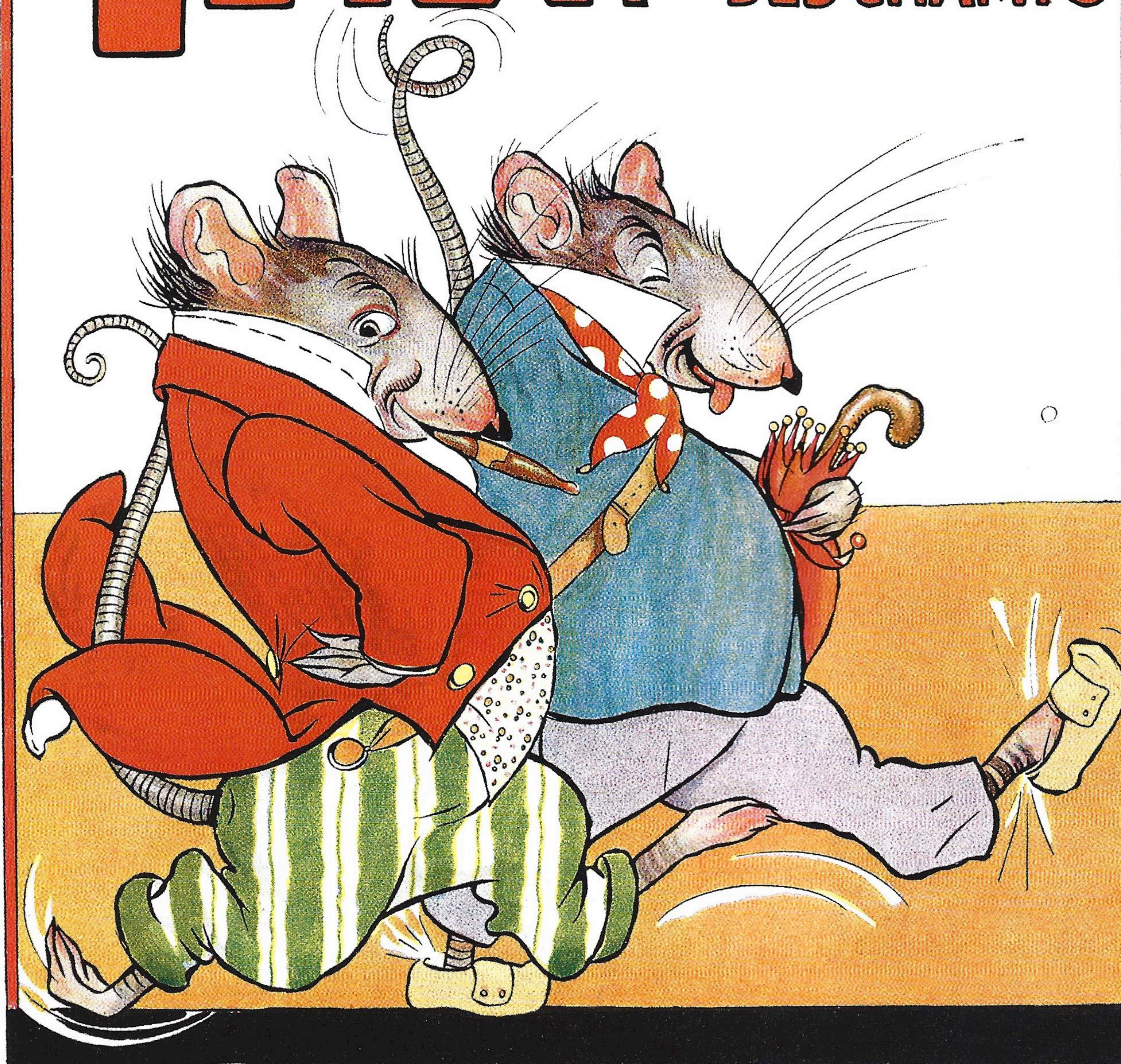
This lesson was worth the loss of a cheese, no doubt"



LE CŌRBEAU, HŌNTEUX ET CŌNFUS,
JURA, MAIS UN PEU TARD,
QU'ŌN NE L'Y PRENDRAIT PLUS.

The crow, ashamed and confused, swore—a little too late—that he would not be fooled again.

LE RAT DE VILLE ET LE RAT DES CHAMPS



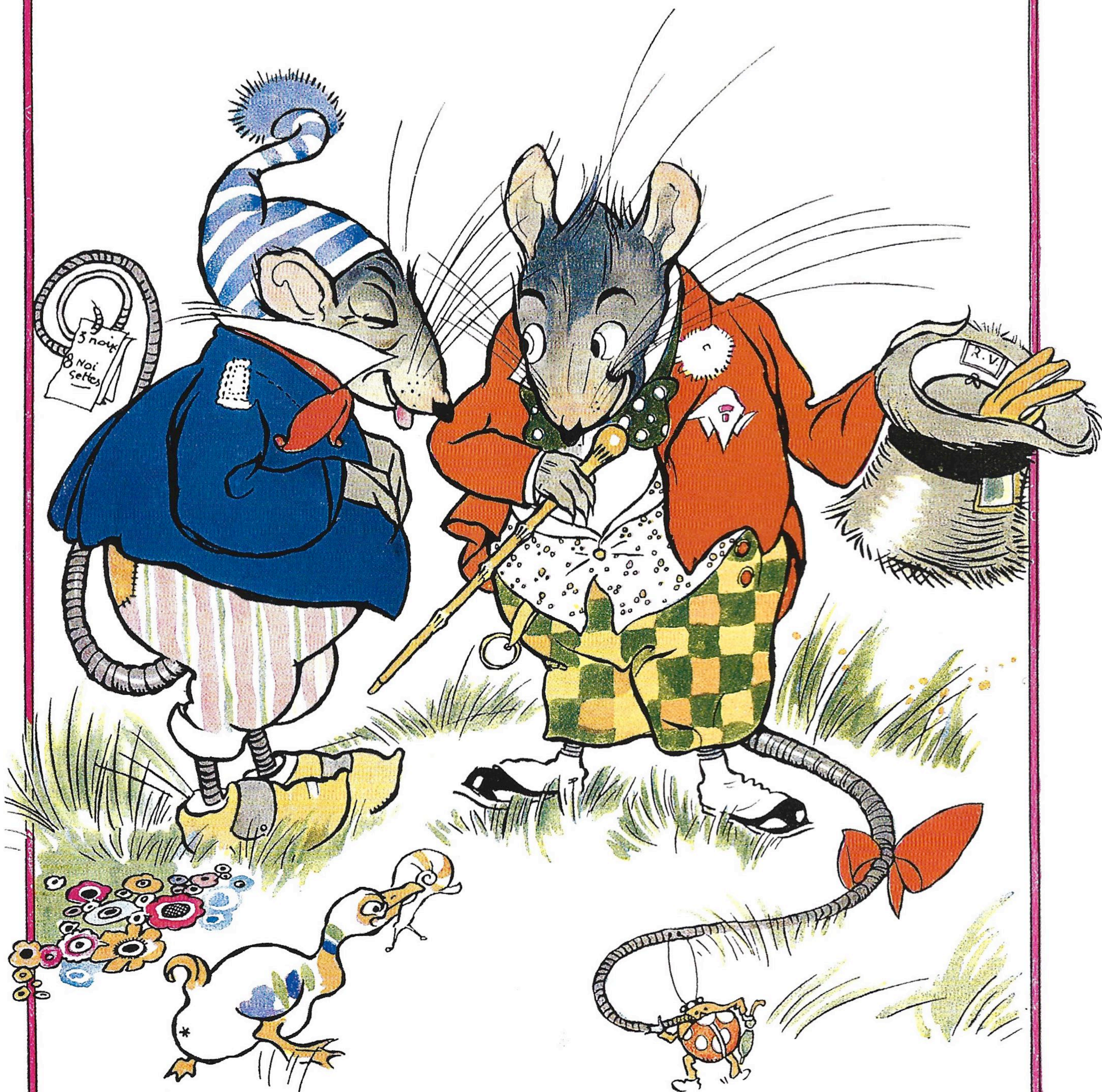
The City Rat and the Country Rat

AUTREFOIS LE RAT DE VILLE
INVITA LE RAT DES CHAMPS,



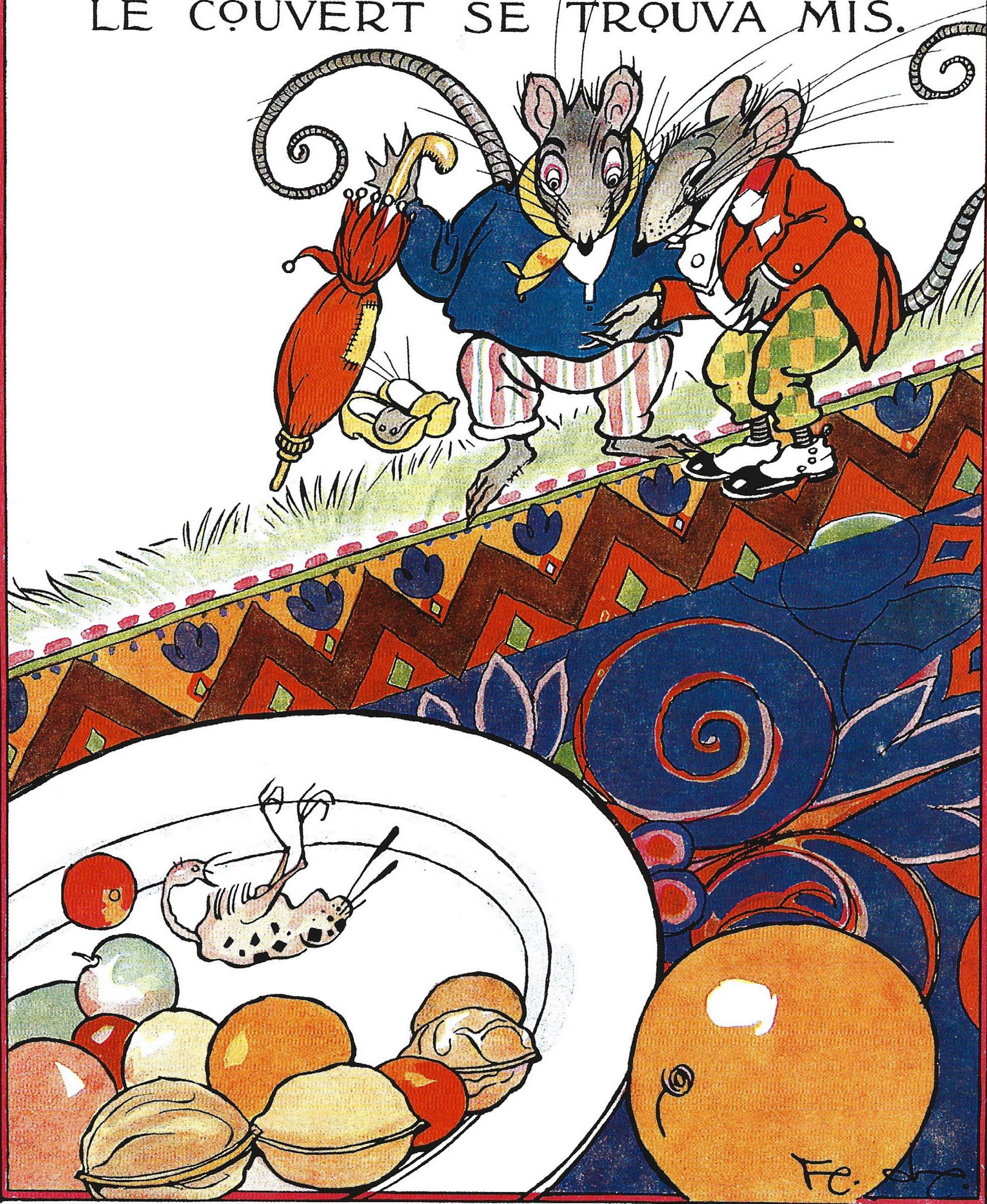
Once upon a time, a city rat invited a country rat

D'UNE FAÇON FORT CIVILE,
À DES RELIEFS D'ORTOLANS.



To dine, in a civilized fashion, on some fowl.

SUR UN TAPIS DE TURQUIE
LE COUVERT SE TROUVA MIS.



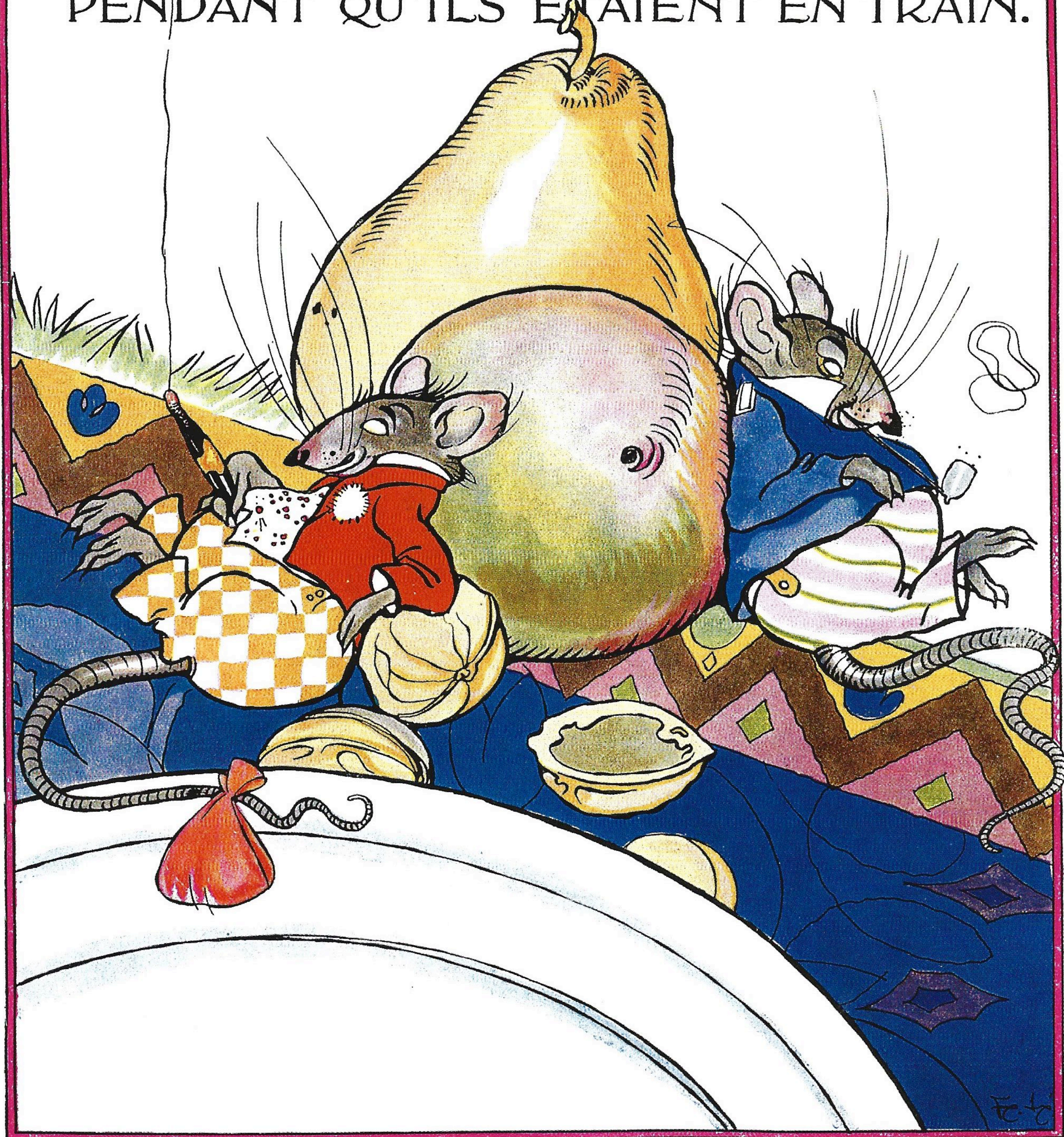
On a Turkish carpet, the meal was laid out.

JE LAISSE À PENSER LA VIE
QUE FIRENT CES DEUX AMIS.



I'll let you imagine what a good time was had.

LE RÉGAL FUT FORT HONNÊTE :
RIEN NE MANQUAIT AU FESTIN ;
MAIS QUELQU'UN TROUBLA LA FÊTE
PENDANT QU'ILS ÉTAIENT EN TRAIN.

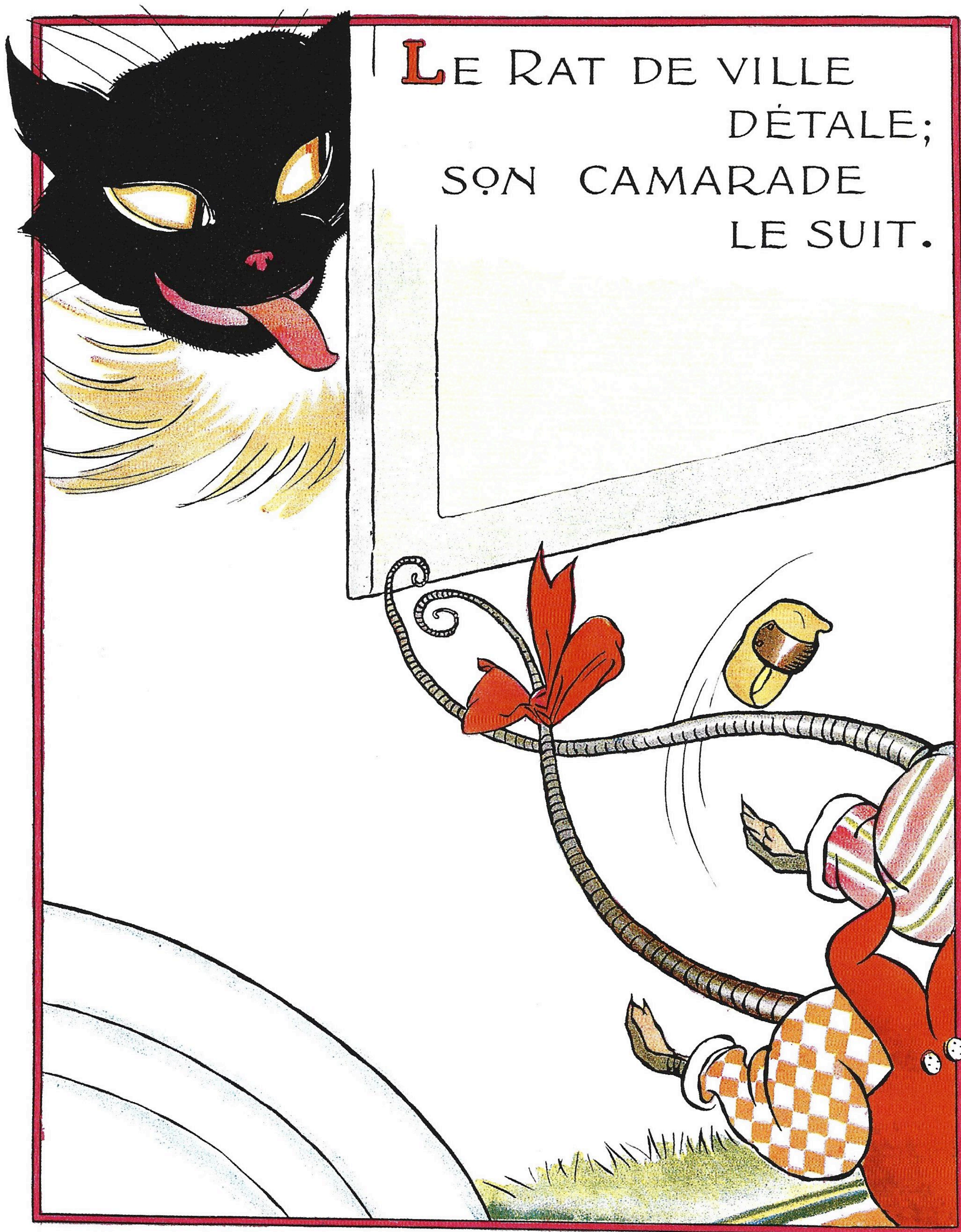


The feast was quite respectable; nothing was left out. But something interrupted the feast right in the middle.

A LA PORTE DE LA SALLE
ILS ENTENDIRENT DU BRUIT :



They heard a noise at the door to the room:



LE RAT DE VILLE
DÉTALE;
SON CAMARADE
LE SUIVIT.

The country rat fled, and his friend followed suit.



LE BRUIT CESSE, ON SE RETIRE :
RATS EN CAMPAGNE AUSSITÔT;
ET LE CITADIN DE DIRE :
« ACHEVONS TOUT NOTRE RÔT.

The noise stopped; the intruder had left. The rats to the meal returned, and the city rat said: "Let's finish our roast."

— C'EST ASSEZ, DIT LE RUSTIQUE ;
DEMAIN VOUS VIENDREZ CHEZ MOI.
CE N'EST PAS QUE JE ME PIQUE
DE TOUS VOS FESTINS DE ROIS ;



"That's enough for now," said the country rat, "tomorrow you'll visit me.
It's not that I can offer you such royal feasts,



MAIS RIEN NE VIENT M'INTERROMPRE :
JE MANGE TOUT À LOISIR .

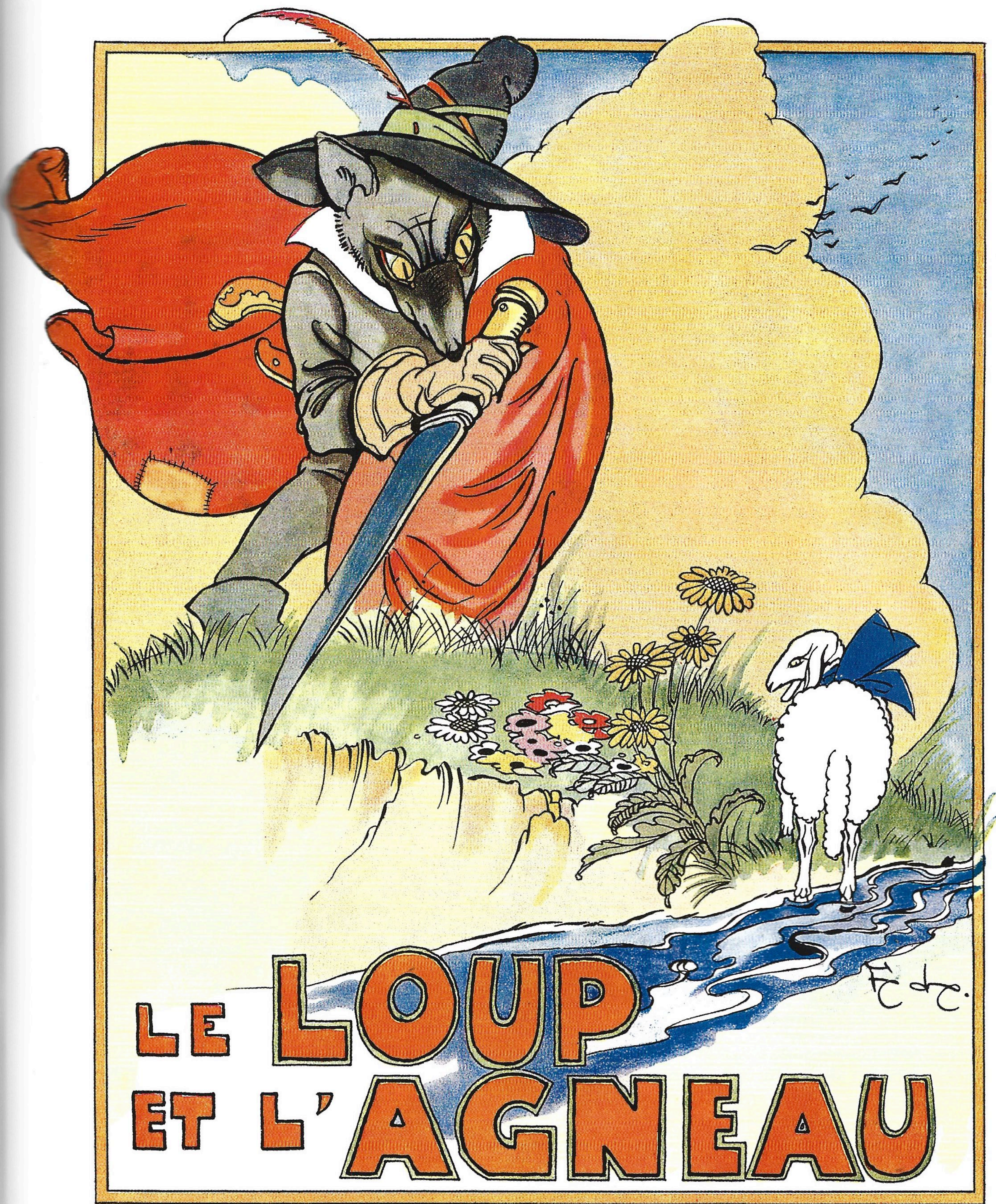
But nothing can interrupt me as I eat in total peace.



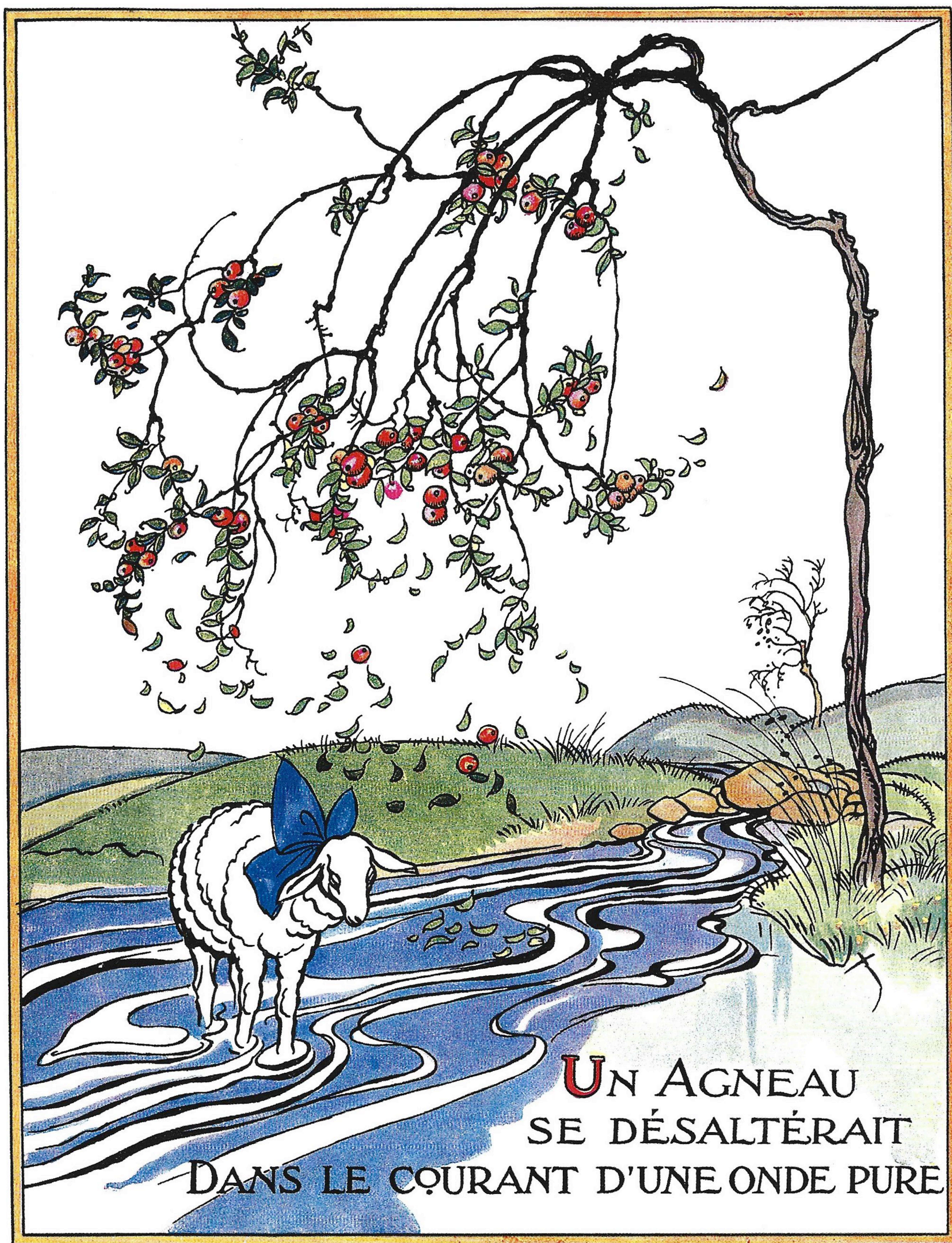
Féli Lorion - 21

ADIEU DONC. FI DU PLAISIR
QUE LA CRAINTE PEUT
CORROMPRE !»

Good-bye, then. I would not give up my leisure for pleasure filled with fear.”



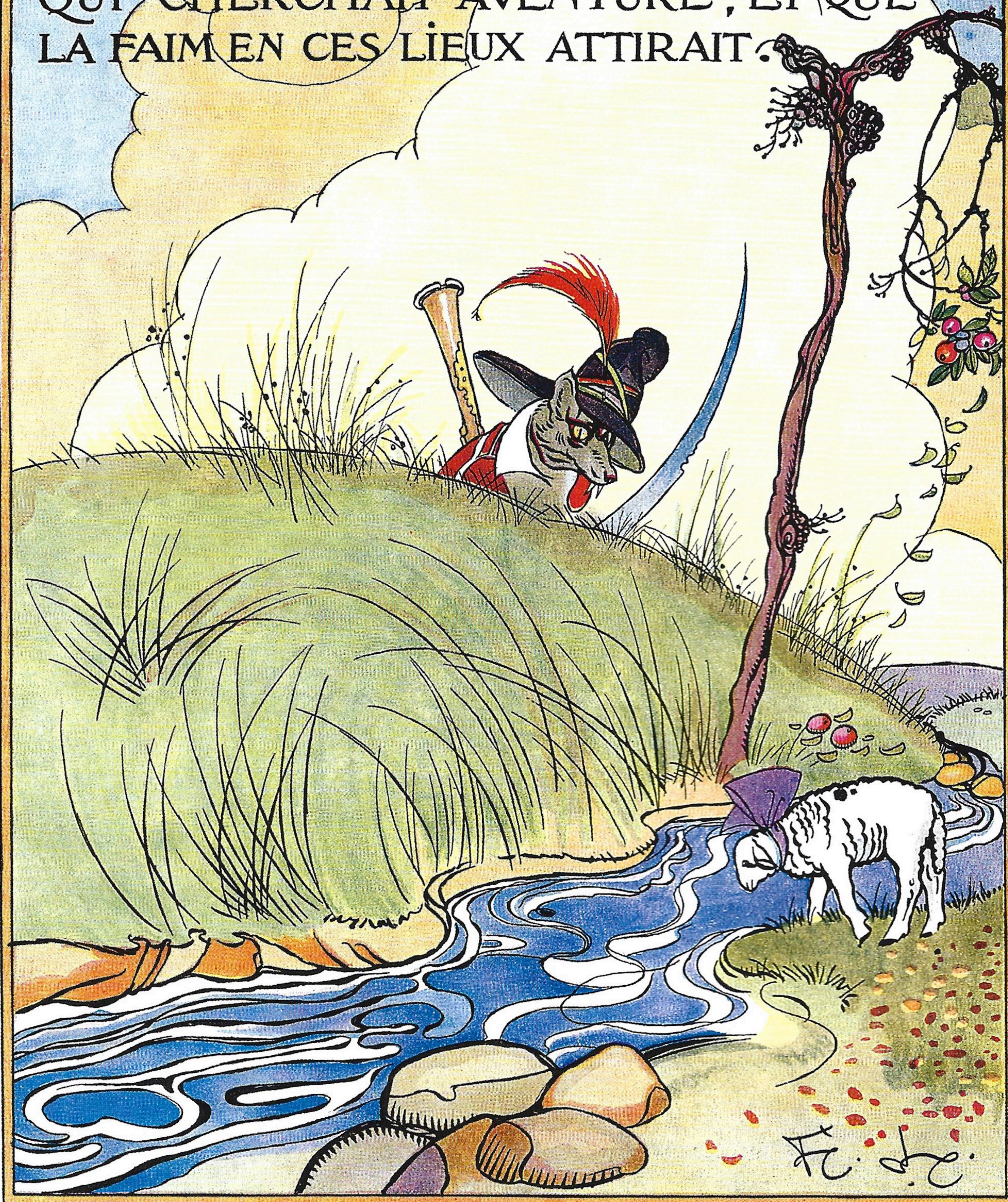
The Wolf and the Lamb



UN AGNEAU
SE DÉSALTÉRAIT
DANS LE COURANT D'UNE ONDE PURE

A lamb was satisfying his thirst in a pure running stream.

UN LOUP SURVIENT À JEUN,
QUI CHERCHAIT AVENTURE, ET QUE
LA FAIM EN CES LIEUX ATTIRAIT.



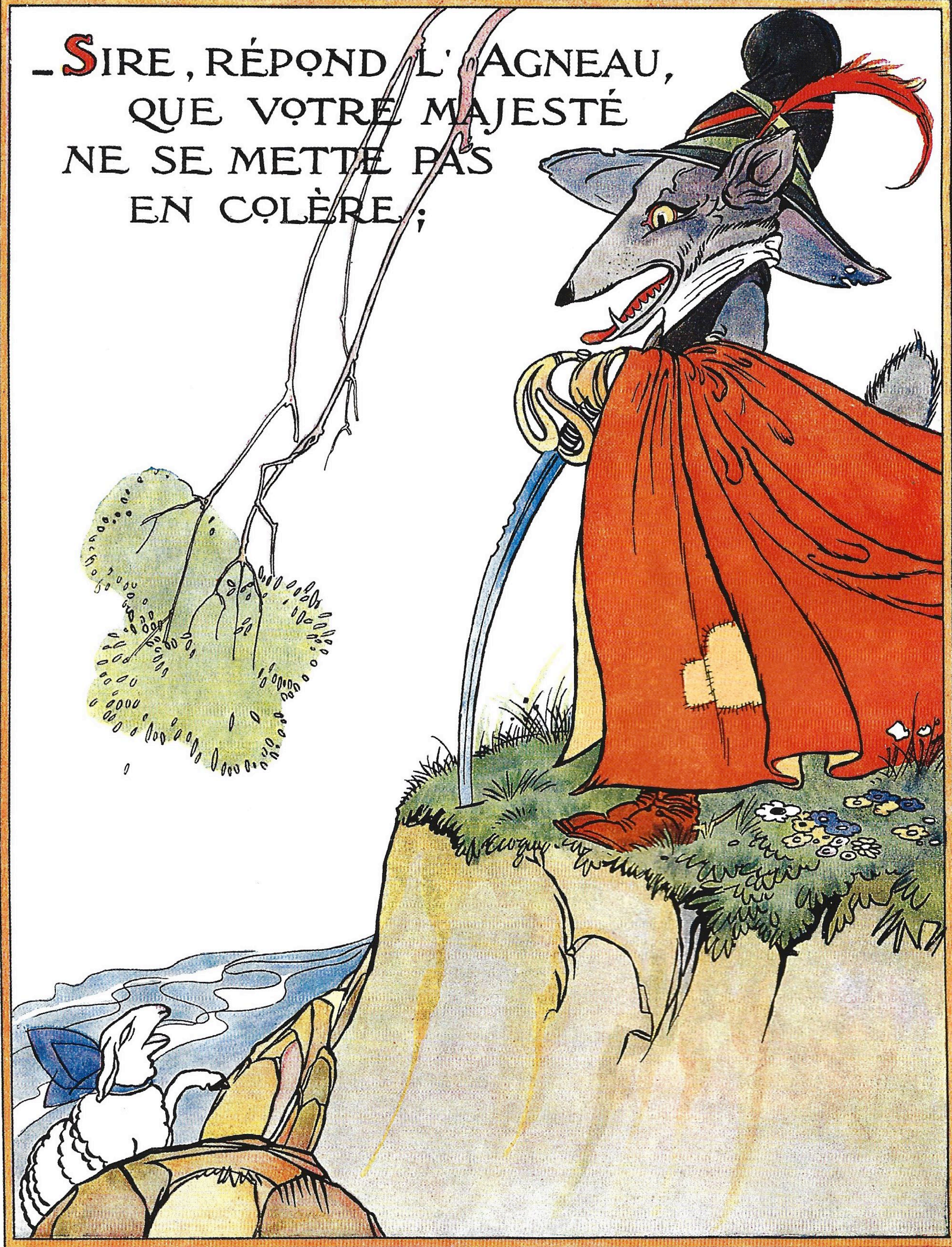
A hungry wolf, on the prowl, spied the young sheep. His hunger had led him to this spot.

«QUI TE REND SI HARDI
DE TROUBLER
MON BREUVAGE ?
DIT CET ANIMAL PLEIN
DE RAGE :
TU SERAS CHÂTIÉ
DE TA TÈMÉRITÉ»



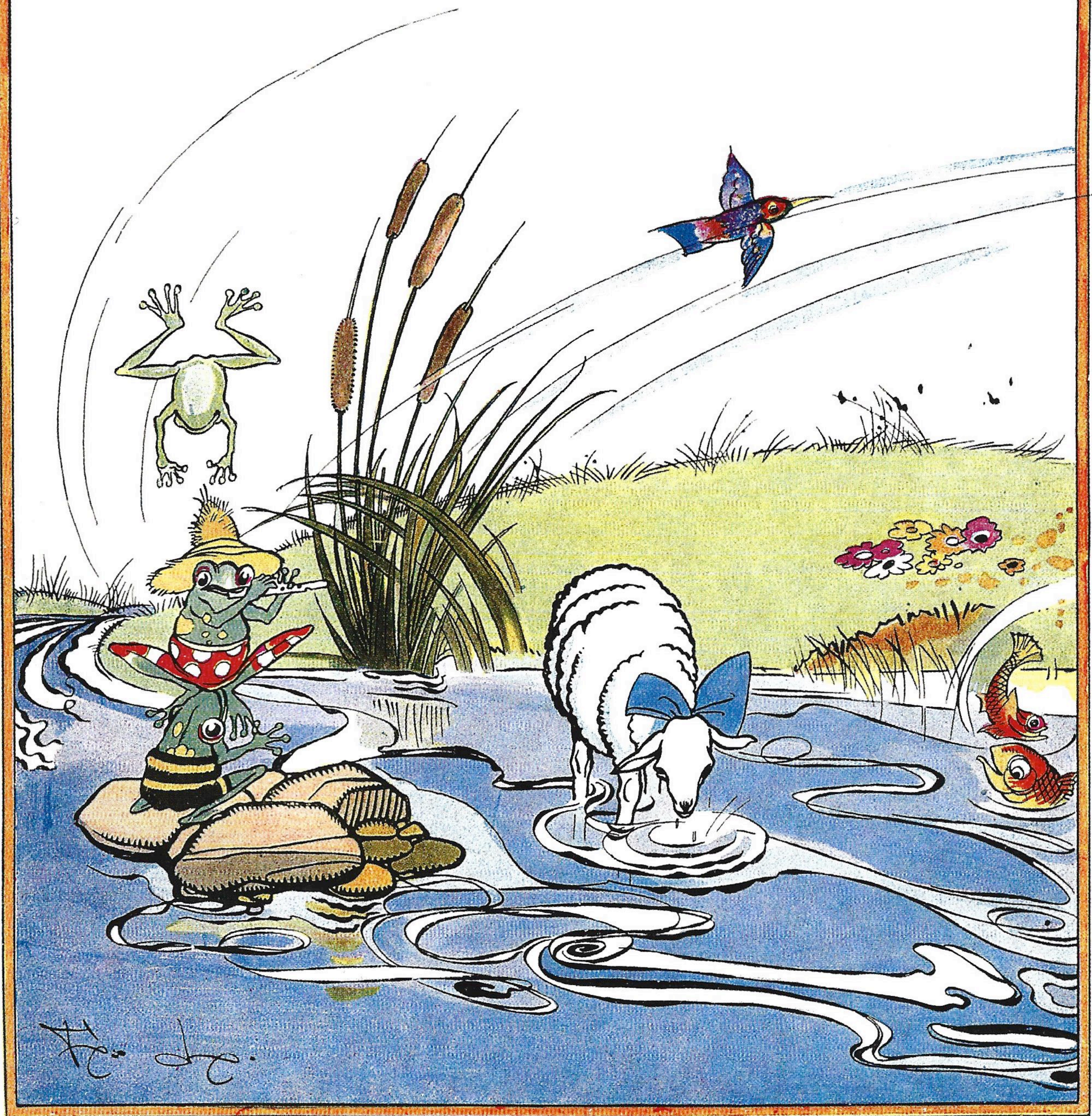
“What makes you so bold, to muddy my water?” said this animal in a rage.
“You will be punished for your daring.”

SIRE, RÉPOND L'AGNEAU,
QUE VOTRE MAJESTÉ
NE SE METTE PAS
EN COLÈRE;



"Sire," the lamb responded, "Your majesty, do not fly into a rage.

MAIS PLUTÔT QU'ELLE CONSIDÈRE
QUE JE ME VAS DÉSALTÉRANT
DANS LE COURANT,



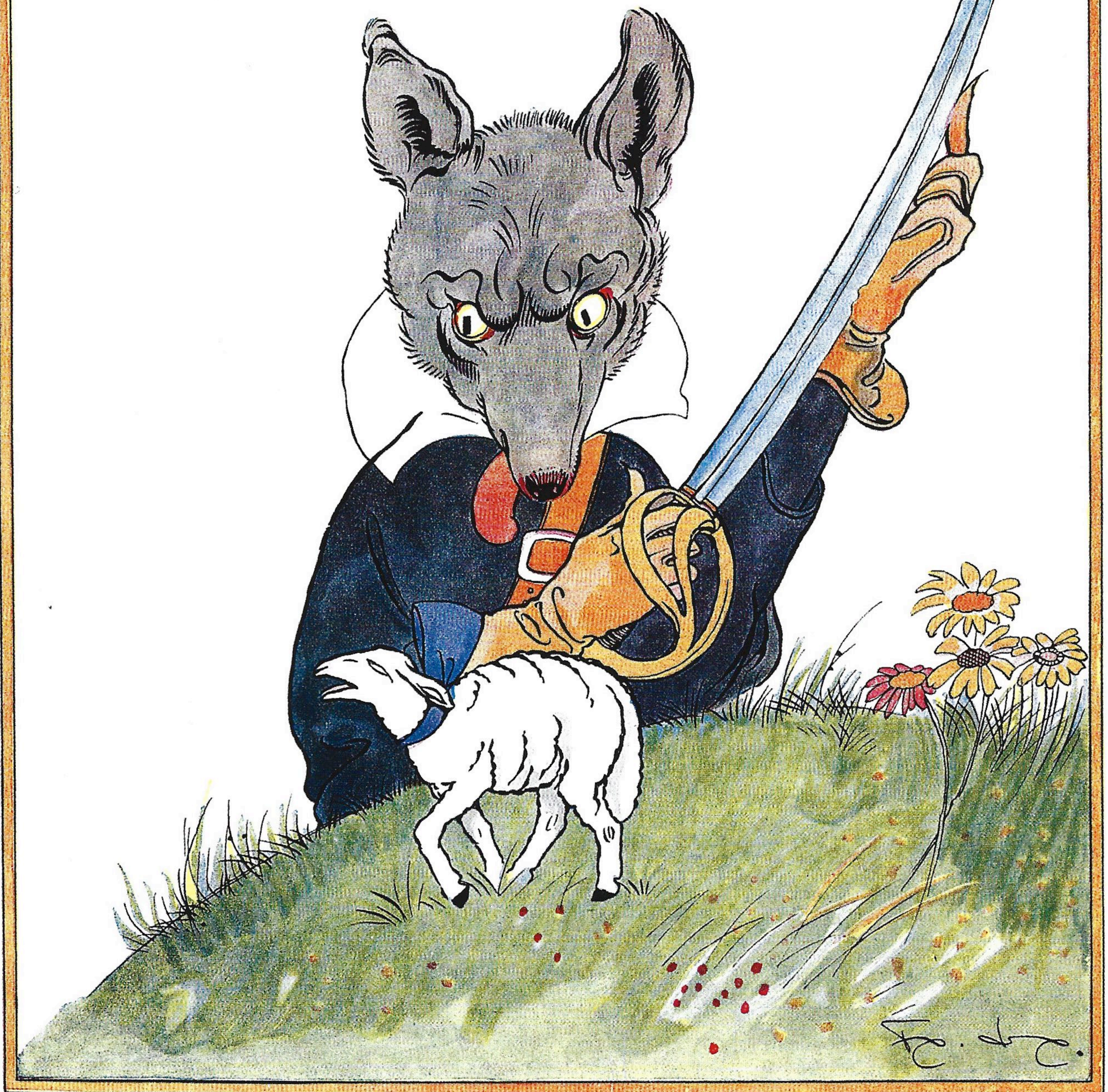
But consider that I am drinking from the stream

PPLUS DE VINGT PAS AU-DESSOUS D'ELLE,
ET QUE PAR CONSÉQUENT, EN AUCUNE FAÇON,
JE NE PUIS TROUBLER SA BOISSON.

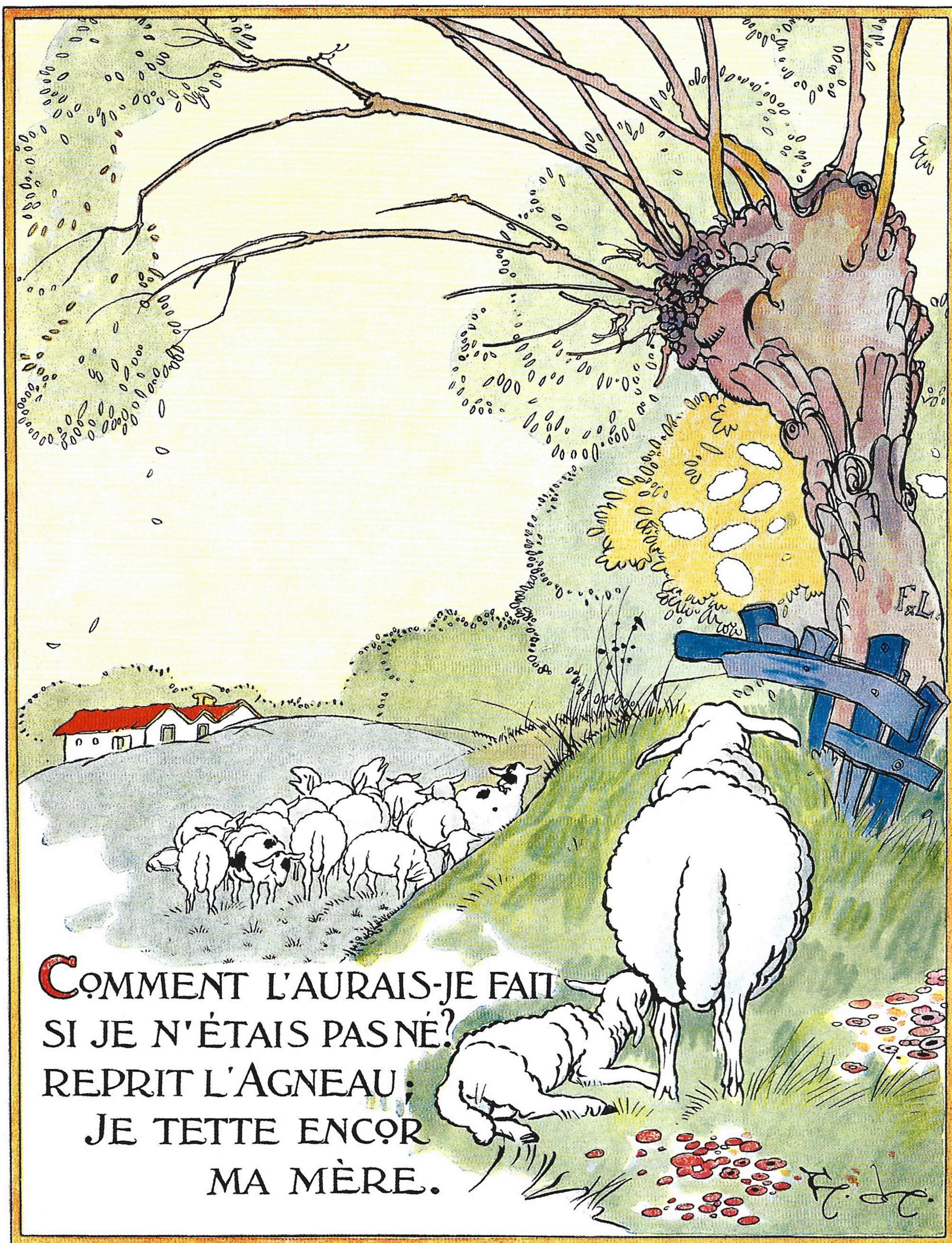


More than twenty steps downstream from you; therefore, there is no way that I can muddy your water."

TU LA TROUBLES,
REPRIT CETTE BÊTE CRUELLE;
ET JE SAIS QUE DE MOI
TU MÉDIS L'AN PASSÉ.



“You do muddy it,” answered the cruel beast, “and I know that you spoke badly of me the past year.”



COMMENT L'AURAI-JE FAIT
SI JE N'ÉTAIS PAS NÉ?
REPRIT L'AGNEAU;
JE TETTE ENCORE
MA MÈRE.

"How could I have done that, since I wasn't yet born?" responded the lamb. "I am still suckling my mother."

— **S**I CE N'EST TOI ,
C'EST DONC TON FRÈRE .
— JE N'EN AI POINT .
— C'EST DONC QUELQU'UN DES TIENS ;



“If it wasn’t you, then it was your brother.” “I have no brother.” “Then it was a relative.”

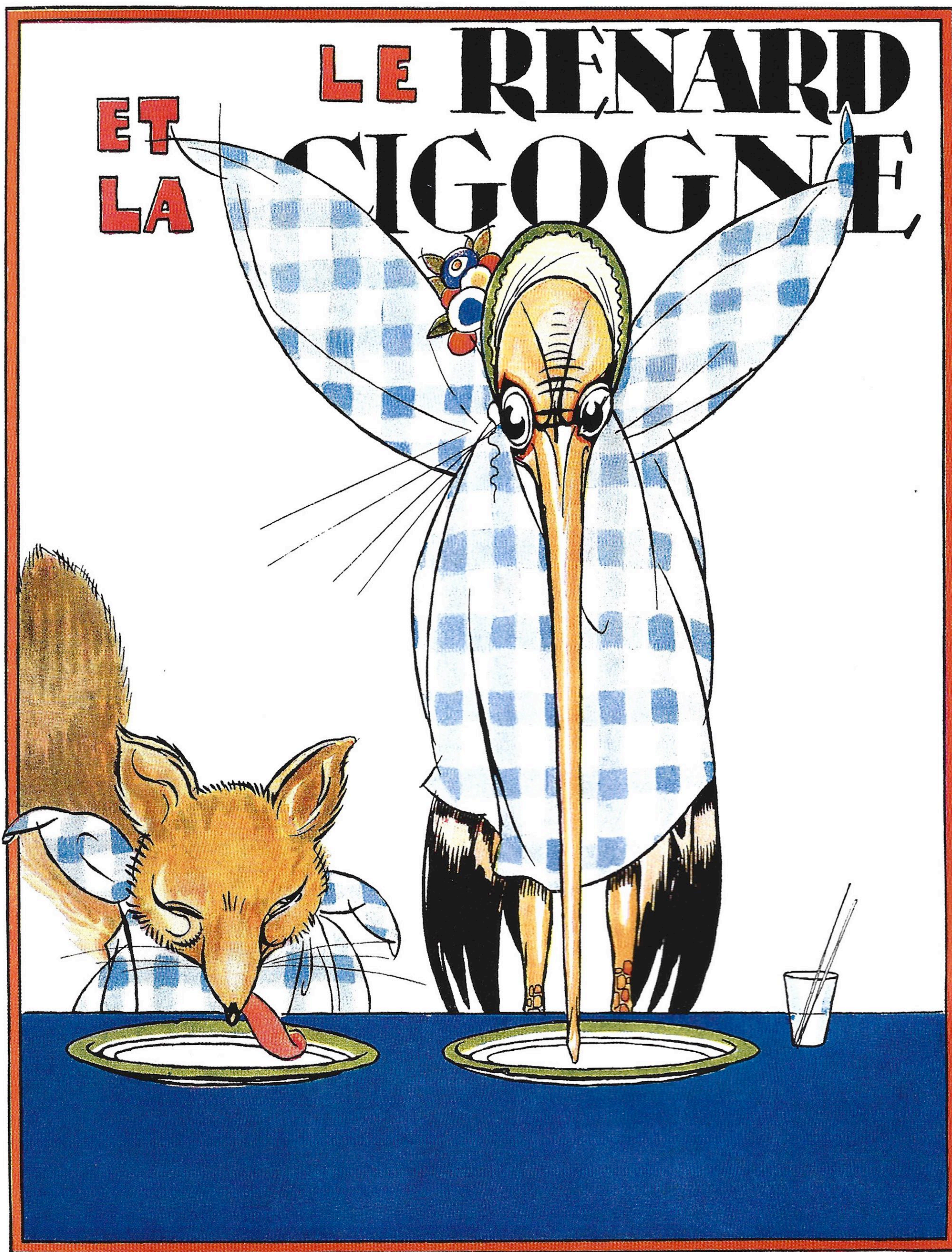
CAR VOUS NE M'ÉPARGNEZ GUÈRE,
VOUS, VOS BERGERS, ^{ET} VOS CHIENS.
ON ME L'A DIT : IL FAUT
QUE JE ME VENGE.»



"You treat me unmercifully, you, your shepherds, and your dogs. I was told this, and now I have to get my revenge."



And so, the wolf carried the lamb deep into the woods and ate him, without any further discussion.



The Fox and the Stork

COMPÈRE LE RENARD
SE MIT UN JOUR EN FRAIS,
ET RETINT À DÎNER
COMMÈRE LA CIGOGNE.

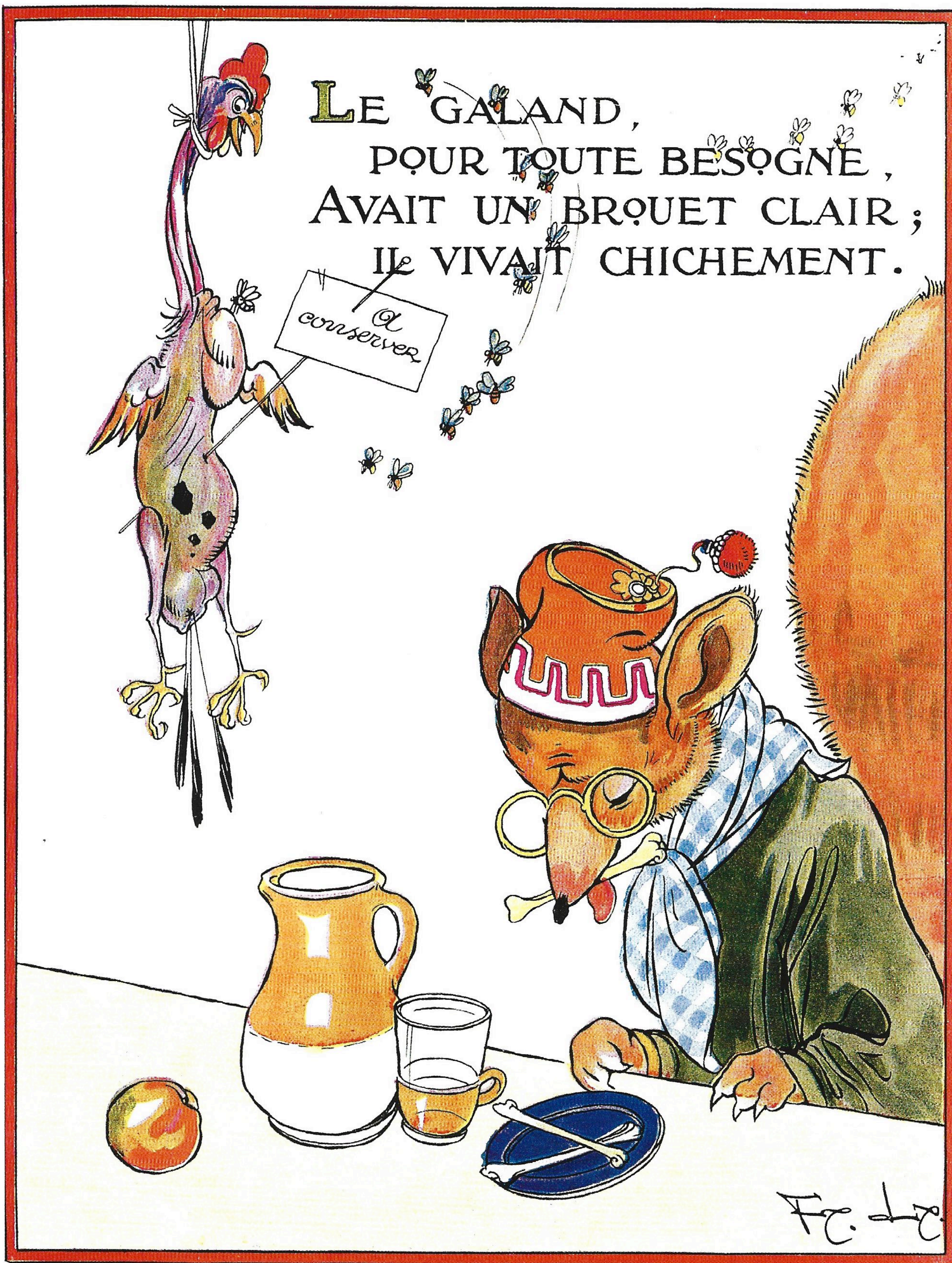


Old Mister Fox was to dine, at his expense, with the Stork.

LE RÉGAL FUT PETIT
ET SANS BEAUCOUP
D'APPRÊTS :



The meal was small and done with little preparation.



In its entirety it was a clear broth, stingily made.

CE BROUET FUT PAR LUI SERVI SUR
UNE ASSIETTE : LA CIGOGNE AU LONG
BEC N'EN PUT ATTRAPER MIETTE :



Old Fox wore a napkin and enjoyed the broth that the Stork's long beak could capture only a little bit.

ET LE DRÔLE EUT LAPÉ LE
TOUT EN UN MOMENT. POUR SE
VENGER DE CETTE TROMPÉRIE,
A QUELQUE TEMPS DE LÀ LA CIGOGNE
LE PRIE.



And the scoundrel ate it all in a moment. To get her revenge for this trickery, the Stork invited him for another time.



«VOLONTIERS, LUI DIT-IL;
CAR AVEC MES AMIS
JE NE FAIS POINT
CÉRÉMONIE»

Without hesitating he accepted the invitation; "I never stand on ceremony with friends," said he.

A L'HEURE DITE, IL COURUT
AU LOGIS DE LA CIGOGNE
SON HÔTESSE ;

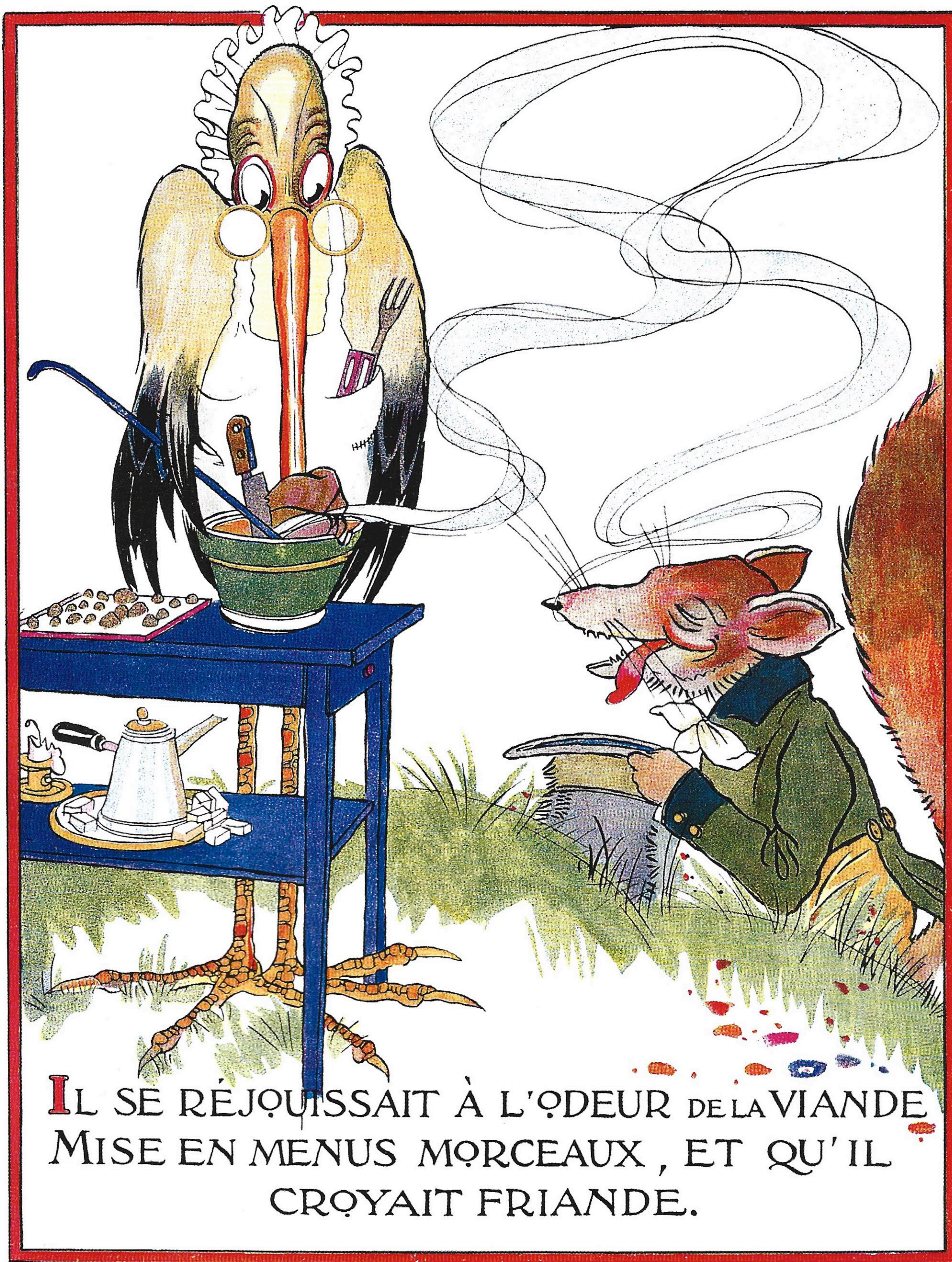


At the agreed-upon hour, he ran to his hostess, the Stork's, dwelling.

LOUA TRÈS FORT SA POLITESSE;
TROUVA LE DÎNER CUIT À POINT :
BON APPÉTIT SURTOUT;
RENARDS N'EN MANQUENT POINT.



Praising her polite manner, he found the meal cooked just right; especially appetizing, and it lacked nothing.



IL SE RÉJOUISSAIT À L'ODEUR DE LA VIANDE
MISE EN MENUS MORCEAUX, ET QU'IL
CROYAIT FRIANDE.

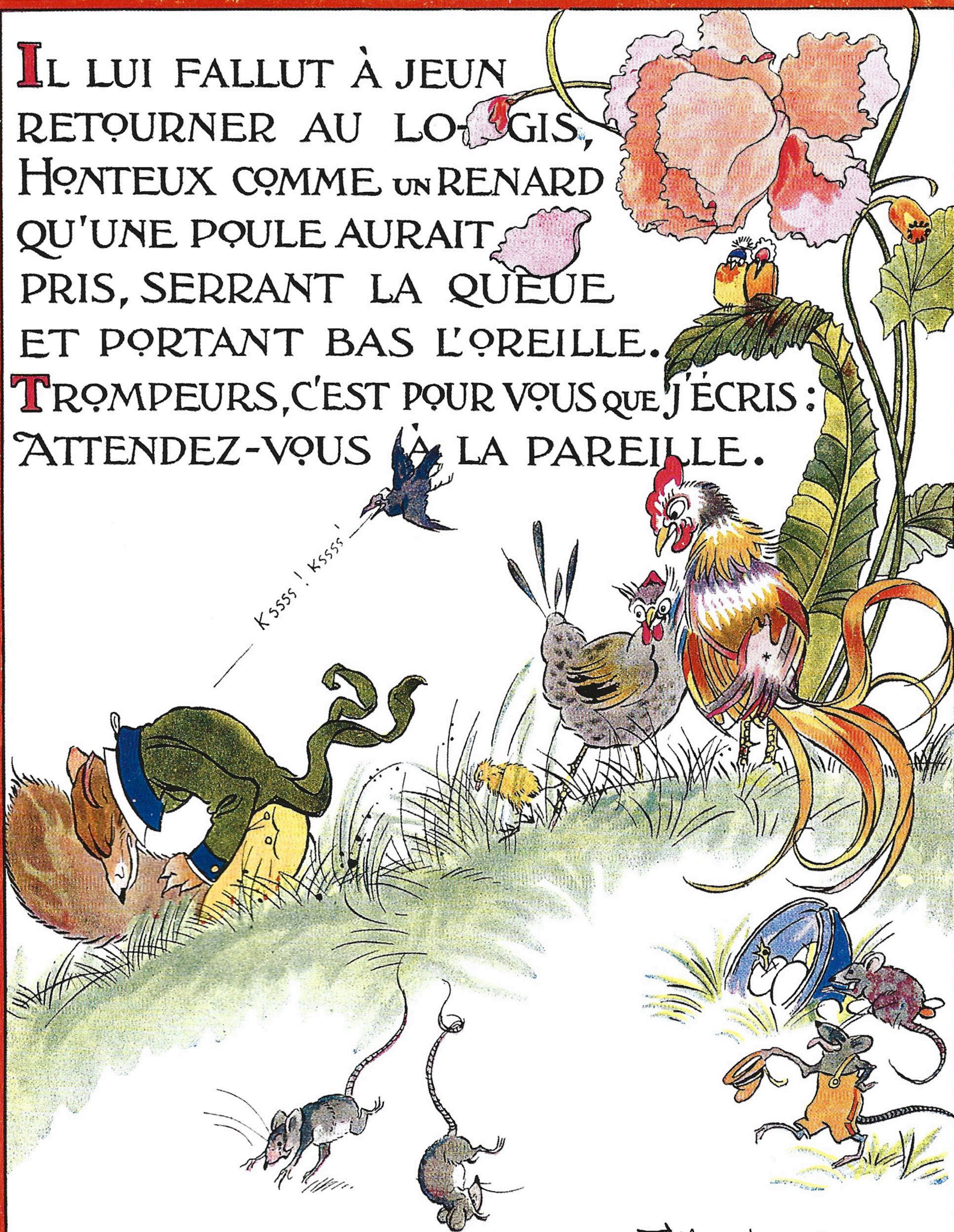
He rejoiced in the aroma of the meat, cut in slender portions that he found dainty.

ON SERVIT, POUR L'EMBARRASSER,
EN UN VASE À LONG COL ET
D'ÉTROITE EMBOUCHURE.
LE BEC DE LA CIGOGNE Y POUVAIT
BIEN PASSER;
MAIS LE MUSEAU DU
SIRE ÉTAIT D'AUTRE
MESURE.



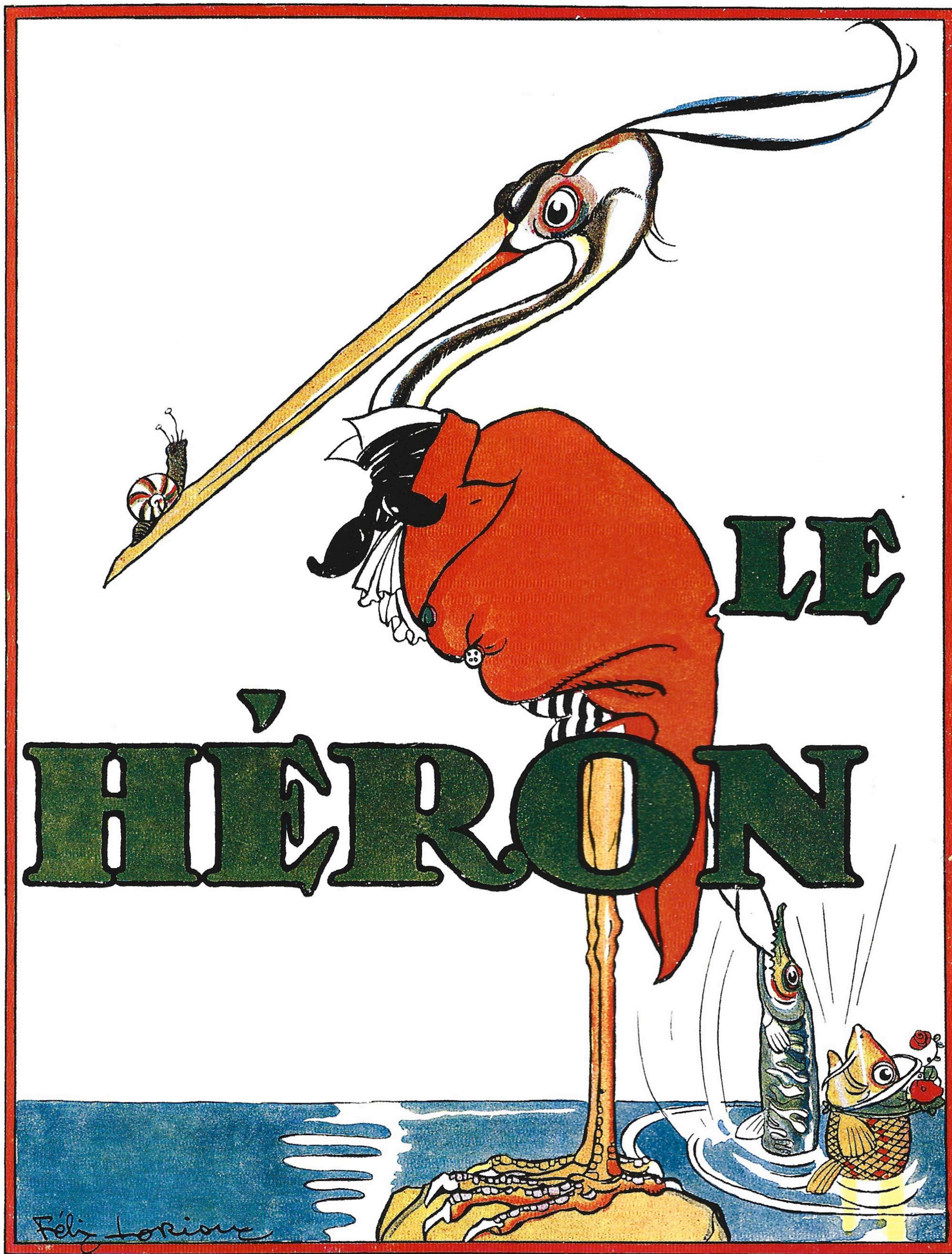
They were served, to hinder his eating them, in serving glasses with thin necks and narrow mouths. The Stork's beak fit easily, but the Fox's muzzle was the wrong size.

IL LUI FALLUT À JEUN
RETOURNER AU LOGIS,
HONTEUX COMME UN RENARD
QU'UNE POULE AURAIT
PRIS, SERRANT LA QUEUE
ET PORTANT BAS L'OREILLE.
TROMPEURS, C'EST POUR VOUS QUE J'ÉCRIS :
ATTENDEZ-VOUS À LA PAREILLE.



Félix LORIOUX

He went home early, ashamed to be a fox whom a fowl had bested, passing through a line of onlookers, his ears hanging low. Cheaters, it is for you that I write: Wait until you, too, get your payback.



The Heron



UN JOUR, SUR SES LONGS PIEDS,
ALLAIT, JE NE SAIS OÙ,
LE HÉRON AU LONG BEC
EMMANCHE D'UN LONG COU.

One day, the long-legged heron went for a stroll, I know not where, with his long beak and long neck.



IL CÔTOYAIT UNE RIVIÈRE.
L'ONDE ÉTAIT TRANSPARENTE
AINSI QU'AUX PLUS BEAUX JOURS ;

He walked along the riverbank, the water was so clear, as on the most beautiful of days.

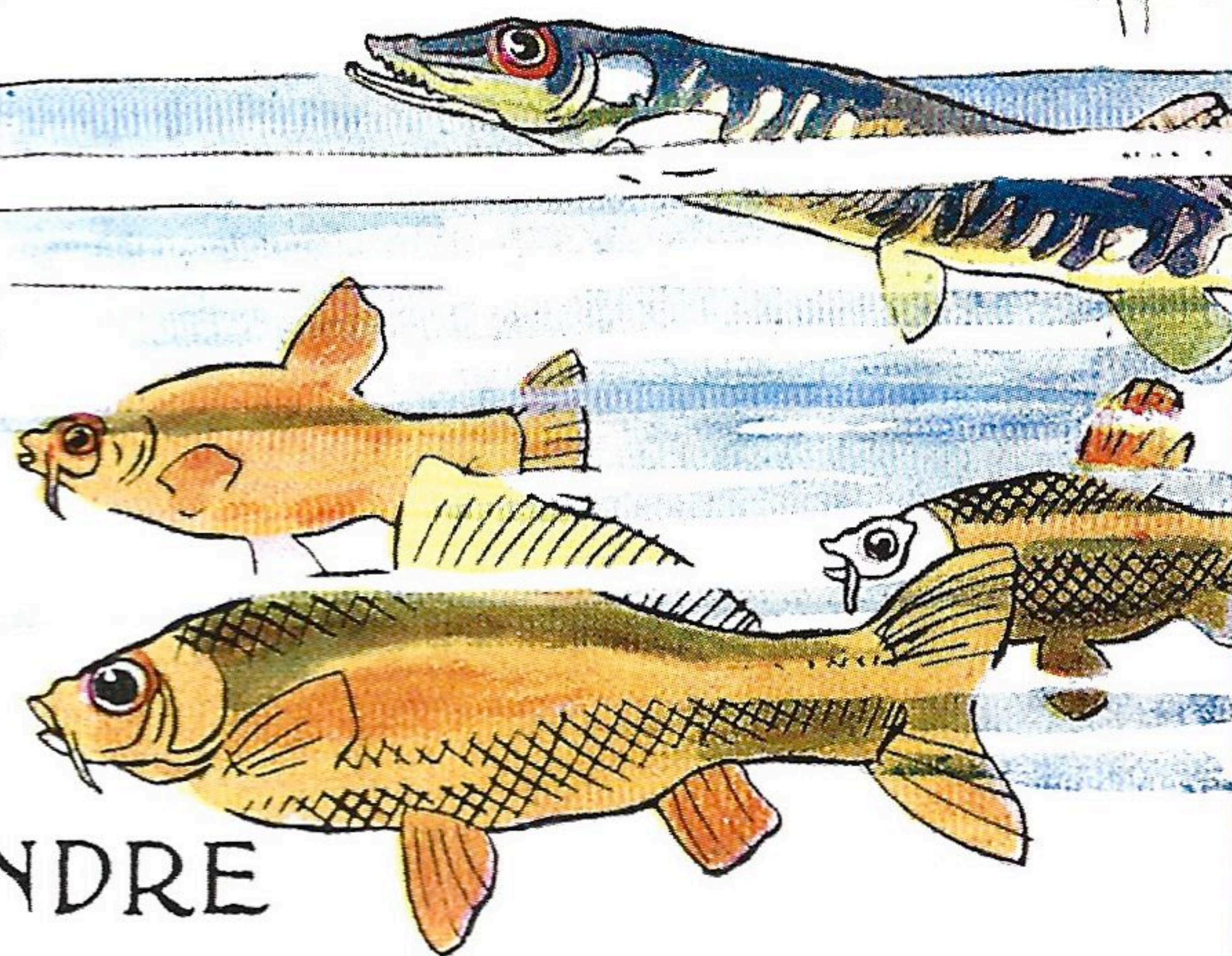


MA COMMÈRE LA CARPE
Y FAISAIT MILLE TOURS,
AVEC LE BROCHET
SON COMPÈRE.

Mother Carp was making a thousand spins, with her partner, the Pike.



LE HÉRON EN EÛT FAIT
AISÉMENT SON PROFIT:
TOUS APPROCHAIENT DU
BORD; L'OISEAU N'AVAIT
QU'À PRENDRE. MAIS IL
CRUT MIEUX FAIRE D'ATTENDRE



The Heron could easily have fished profitably, and came closer at first; they were his for the taking. But he thought better of it and decided to wait



QU'ILEÛT UN PEU PLUS d'APPÉTIT:
IL VIVAIT DE RÉGIME & MANGEAIT
À SES HEURES. APRÈS QUELQUES
MOMENTS, L'APPÉTIT VINT : L'OISEAU,

Until he had a bit more of an appetite. He abided by the rules he kept for mealtimes. Soon his appetite grew,



S'APPROCHANT DU BORD, VIT SUR
L'EAU DES TANCHES QUI SORTAIENT
DU FOND DE CES DEMEURES.

And approaching the riverbank, saw on the surface some tench fish coming up from the water's depths.



LE METS NE LUI PLUT
PAS; IL S'ATTENDAIT À
MIEUX, ET MONTRAIT UN
GOÛT DÉDAIGNEUX, COMME
LE RAT DU BON HORACE.

He would not take them; he would wait for something better, disdainful of this meal, like Horace's rat.

«**M**OI, DES TANCHES!
DIT-IL; MOI, HÉRON,
QUE JE FASSE UNE
SI PAUVRE CHÈRE?
ET POUR QUI ME
PREND-ON ?



"I eat tenches!" said he; "I, a Heron, to eat such as these; what do you take me for?"

LA TANCHE REBUTÉE,
IL TROUVA DU GOUJON.
« DU GOUJON ! C'EST BIEN
LÀ LE DÎNER D'UN HÉRON !
J'OUVRIRAI POUR SI PEU
LE BEC ! AUX DIEUX
NE PLAISE ! »



The tenches were rejected; he then found some gudgeons. "Gudgeons, that's not a fit meal for a Heron; nothing to open my beak for, if it please the gods!"



IL L'OUVRIT POUR BIEN
MOINS : TOUT ALLA DE FACON
QU'IL NE VIT PLUS
AUCUN POISSON.

He ended up opening it for less, for he found no more fish.



LA FAIM LE PRIT : IL FUT
TOUT HEUREUX ET TOUT AISE
DE RENCONTRER
UN LIMAÇON.

Félix Lortoux

His hunger was so great, he was overjoyed to find a snail to feast upon.

(continued from front flap)

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